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AGRI NEWS

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ALBERTA GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTES TO PHILIPPINE PROJECT



Asian Development Bank (ADB) staff members on a fact reviewing mission in the Philippines prior to the approval of Agusan del Sur Irrigation Project loan of $5.8 million. From left to right the countries represented are Australia, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Thailand, Taiwan, Laos, Canada and Germany. Canada's representative was Tom Rackham, an economist with Alberta Agriculture.

A $5.8 million loan enabling the Philippine government to go ahead with its Agusan del Sur Irrigation Project on the island of Mindanao was recently approved by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) upon the recommendation of a fact reviewing mission carried out last year by the Philippine government and an international consultant's team led by Tom Rackham. Mr. Rackham is an economist with Alberta Agriculture.

(continued)

Alberta Government Contributes to Philippine Project (cont'd)

Costing $11 million, the project will contribute to the Philippine Government's goal of rice self-sufficiency by harnessing the irrigation potential of the Andanan and Simulao Rivers which are tributaries of the Agusan River in eastern Mindanao, the second largest island in the Philippines.

Comprising two separate gravity irrigation systems, the project covers a total of 8,700 hectares (21,000 acres) and will lead to an annual production increase of 53,00 metric tons of paddy rice and 3,700 metric tons of corn.

At the present time the project area is not self-sufficient in food, but in addition to fulfilling its own requirements, it is anticipated that it will export 40,000 metric tons of rice to other needy parts of the Philippines when the irrigation facilities are in full operation. They will be phased in over four or five years, starting in 1977.

The Agusan del Sur Irrigation Project contains an unusual feature in that it includes a development program. This program provides for such production 'inputs' as machinery and grain drying, grain storage, and marketing facilities as well as for extension services to upgrade the production capacity of the people who will be growing the crops.

(continued)

Alberta Government Contributes to Philippine Project (cont'd)

In addition to its contribution to the Philippine Project, in the form of Mr. Rackham's services, the Alberta government currently has a development study team in Indonesia. This team is half way through work that will increase crop production in underdeveloped parts of that area.

According to Mr. Rackham, the world's capacity to produce food far exceeds the needs of present and future populations, but our present food demands are now outstripping our capacity to produce it. He sees the next few years as a crucial period in food production, and emphasizes that our production capacity must be brought into balance with our increasing population if a crisis is to be averted. To achieve this goal, he recommends that the trend towards large, expensive, development projects, which often do not become functional for 20 years or more, be replaced by more numerous, smaller projects which start producing tangible results in five or six years. The Philippine project is an example of a medium-length development project that will go a long way towards alleviating the shortage of food in a relatively large area of those islands within a relatively short period.

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March 10, 1975

AGRI NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE ROLE OF ALBERTA EXTENSION AND NATIVE PEOPLE

What is Alberta Agriculture doing to improve the skills and self-image of the province's native people?

Although the department's extension services have always been available to Indian, Metis and white people on an equal basis, more emphasis is now being placed on programs and services that are geared to the specific needs of native people, and that will involve them in both the planning and implementation of the programs.

Barbara Stroh, in charge of native peoples' programs under Alberta Agriculture's Extension Division, says "part of this new approach was the decision last year to use agriculture advisors and home economist aides to overcome the problems we have been having in reaching native people with our traditional extension programs". We choose our agricultural advisors and home economist aides from people in Metis colonies and on the Indian reserves who are familiar with the cultures and values of their communities. An agricultural advisor works under the guidance of the local district agriculturist, while the home economist aide is the liaison between the district home economist and the aide's community."

According to Mrs. Stroh, the response to the new approach has been most encouraging.

(continued)

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The Role Of Alberta Extension and Native People (cont'd)

The Blood Reserve in southern Alberta (the largest reserve in Canada), for example, asked Alberta Agriculture last November to hire an Indian woman as a home economist aide and said they would provide the support and working facilities needed. The project was undertaken with the home economist aide disseminating home-making information and organizing courses under the guidance of the district home economist.

Another first last year was the participation of the Blood, Peigan, Blackfoot, Eden Valley and Scarcee Indian Reserve women in a five-day 'live-in' personal development and home economics course. As requested by the participants, the course covered such topics as 'building confidence','developing leadership skills', 'looking at values', 'potential personal development', and instruction in food buymanship, nutrition, home management, home design and related subjects. It also included a visit to the Glenbow Foundation and a meal at the Spaghetti Factory in Calgary.

A regional program was held in the St. Paul area last year, involving 20 native women from the Caslan-Kikino Metis colonies and the Saddle Lake and Good Fish Indian reserves and the district home economists in these areas. The reaction of the native women was expressed in these words. "It is the first time that Indian and Metis women in this region have ever planned and worked together on a common project".

(continued)

The Role of Alberta Extention and Native People (cont'd)

At this same meeting one of the older women shared her experience of delivering her own baby in the middle of winter. She said she was in the midst of skinning muskrats when the baby decided to appear. After its arrival she finished skinning the rats. "A story like this" says Mrs. Stroh, "really makes the hardships of these women real"! Some of the other women shared information on native medicines and remedies such as the use of birch bark for burns, which is still used today.

Co-operation between Alberta Agricultural staff and representatives from the Metis colonies and Indian reserves north and west of Edmonton reached the point last year where they jointly planned, organized, and carried out a one-week 'live-in' workshop for native women. The native women chose the following topics for their program: human rights, women's rights, public speaking, family planning, clothing care and new fabric care.

Alberta Agriculture is also working with organizations such as the Voice of the Alberta Native Women's Society in Edmonton. One of the results of this co-operation was made tangible last summer when their president, Bertha Clarke, addressed Alberta Women's Week at Olds.

(continued)

The Role of Alberta Extension and Native People (cont'd)

This annual event, open to both urban and rural women throughout the province, was attended by 15 native women who took part both as craft instructors and regular participants. A typical comment at the end of the week was, "All my life I have disliked Indians. My experience during the last week has changed all that for me. It has been a real experience in self-growth".

So successful was the involvement of native women in last year's Alberta Women's Week Program, that two native women from the Saddle Lake Indian Reserve have already been appointed to the planning committee for this year's program. An Alberta Women's Week with native women involvement is also planned for Falher and possibly for Vermilion.

"My job", Mrs. Stroh says, "is to tell the native people who live on reserves and in Metis colonies in the province about the services that are available to them from Alberta Agriculture. The native people must request our help----we do not impose our programs. When we receive a request, we help the native people design programs that will fulfill the needs they expressed when they requested our services".

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AGRI NEWS

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SLEEPER SYNDROME SYMPTOMS

Although an accurate diagnosis of the sleeper syndrome in cattle requires a veterinary examination, the following conditions could all be indicative of its presence: pleurisy, pleurisy and pneumonia, sleeper syndrome and a diphtheria-like condition.

In one pen of feeders, for example, some animals may be dull, have a nasal discharge and rapid breathing, suggesting pneumonia. Others may be stiff, lame in their upper or lower limbs and have swollen joints, indicative of arthritis. Still others may be down and in convulsions, indicating a brain infection. An occasional animal may have hoarse, labored, open-mouthed breathing, suggestive of a diptheria-like condition. The small bacterium, Hemophilus somnus, which causes this infection, has also been associated in recent years with infertility in beef herds and with the occasional abortion.

Dr. G. A. Chalmers, head of the Alberta Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory at Lethbridge, says that at the present time it is believed that the bacterium responsible for sleeper syndrome has a special attraction for the animal's windpipe and lungs. If it succeeds in getting into the bloodstream, it spreads very rapidly to other areas of the body, including the joints, brain and many other organs.

(continued)

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SLEEPER SYNDROME SYMPTOMS (cont'd)

"Microscopic examination of various tissues from animals that have died from this condition confirm that many organs have been attacked", Dr. Chalmers says.

It is because of this ability to become 'seeded' in various organs and systems, via the blood stream, that the hemophilus organism has been associated with all the different conditions mentioned above.

Dr. Chalmers believes that mass treatment with such drugs as the tetracyclines or sulfonamides, via the drinking water, may be the most effective way of dealing with this condition in a pen of feeder cattle. Although the causative organism appears to be sensitive to a number of different antibiotics and related medicines, treatment on a pen basis may have to be continued for as long as three weeks to eliminate the infection.

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AGRI NEWS

ALBERTA FRESH VEGETABLE INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Alberta Agriculture's Fresh Vegetable Incentive Program is to be continued this year.

Introduced in 1974, the program is designed to stabilize and increase the province's commercial fresh vegetable acreage and to encourage the establishment of market gardens. Vegetable acreages in this province have remained stable since 1971 because of market uncertainties, increased production costs and lucrative alternative cropping opportunities.

Under the program, vegetable growers will receive cash payments, designed to make their crops more competitive with the many alternative crops that can be grown, particularly in the southern part of the province.

This year's incentive payments to commercial growers for carrots, rutabagas and parsnips are $7.50 per ton. For cabbage, onions and sweet corn, they are $10 per ton. The maximum payment per producing unit is $5,000.

A market gardener who qualifies under the program will receive a flat grant of $300. To qualify he must sell directly to consumers all the vegetables from a minimum of two acres of land. Potatoes are not included in the program.

(continued)

Alberta Fresh Vegetable Incentive Program (cont'd)

District agriculturists and regional Plant Industry supervisors have information on the program. Alberta Agriculture's Horticultural Branch will be sending an outline of it and an 'Intent to Claim Form' to all known commercial vegetable growers and market gardeners. Any commercial vegetable grower or market gardener who does not receive the program outline and an 'Intent to Claim Form' should contact the Horticultural Branch, Alberta Agriculture, Agriculture Building, Edmonton, or the Alberta Horticultural Research Center, Brooks.

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AGRI NEWS

COLOSTRUM CUTS CALF LOSSES

Tom Seaborn, district agriculturist at Rocky Mountain House, says you can cut your calf losses by 50 per cent this spring if you give extra care to the calves from your heifers, and if you make sure all the calves in the herd receive colostrum immediately after birth. To ensure they all get it will mean keeping a supply of frozen colostrum on hand.

"It has been shown", Mr. Seaborn says, "that almost 100 per cent of the antibodies in the colostrum pass directly into the blood stream from the intestine when the calf's intestinal permeability is at its peak. The peak is reached within the first 30 minutes of life and remains for approximately two hours. After this permeability drops off rapidly. In six hours it is only 10 per cent."

Many farmers erroneously believe that a calf can be given colostrum any time after birth and that it will develop resistance to disease. This simply is not true! Mr. Seaborn recommends force-feeding colostrum to calves that have not nursed by the time they are two hours old.

He also points out that colostrum that is going to be frozen for future use should always be taken from a mature cow. Her colostrum will contain five times the antibody level of that taken from a two-year old heifer.

(continued)

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Colostrum Cuts Calf Losses (cont'd)

When freezing the colostrum it should be put in containers that hold an amount that can be used at one time. If you freeze a large quantity in one batch, you will have to thaw the whole batch to get a representative sample of colostrum that contains all its properties. Refreezing colostrum is not recommended.

Ten per cent of the bodyweight of a new born animal is considered a good feeding of colostrum. This means that to get maximum benefit a 100-pound calf should get 10 pounds of colostrum.

"Cattle producers have long realized the importance of colostrum", Mr. Seaborn says, "but it is only recently that research has shown how crucial the timing is."

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AGRI NEWS

FLEXIBLE CASH RENT

Flexible cash rent! What is it? How does it work?

Flexible cash rent or sliding scale rent keeps a tenant's risk within acceptable limits and allows the landlord to share in profits that accrue from higher grain yields and prices, says Dale Kramer, Alberta Agriculture's assistant regional economist at Calgary.

He feels that this type of rental agreement is worth considering in view of present high land prices and interest rates. Landlords are going to be looking at various leasing alternatives and tenants are going to be looking at arrangements that will enable them to obtain, or retain, rented land by giving an equitable share to their landlord with enough left over to cover production costs, management and risk.

"Flexible cash rent", says Mr. Kramer, "with its sliding scale above and below an established base, can be used to cover variable yields and variable prices".

The first step is for both parties to determine what a 'fair' cash rent is. To do this the landlord needs to estimate his ownership costs and the tenant needs to estimate the most he can afford to pay on the basis of expected production costs.

(continued)

Flexible Cash Rent (cont'd)

Flexible Cash Rent Based On Yield

To make the rent flexible on the basis of yield, the parties establish a base yield (a certain portion of the long-term average yield for the area) and then agree on a percentage that the landlord is willing to accept or absorb if the price goes above or below this base yield.

> Supposing that the long-term average for the area is established at 30 bushels per acre, and the negotiated base rent is 10 bushels per acre.
>
> And the agreed percentage which the landlord will receive or absorb is 25 per cent.
>
> And the actual yield turns out to be 40 bushels per acre.
>
> The landlord will receive 10 bushels + 2.5 bushels [(40-30) .25] = 12.5 bushels per acre.
>
> If the yield decreases to 20 bushels per acre, the landlord will receive 10-2.5 [(30-20) .25] = 7.5 bushels per acre.

Since the flexible rent is based on a predetermined price of the crop, the price should be re-negotiated each year.

Flexible Cash Rent Based on Price

When basing the flexible cash rent on price, the landlord and tenant agree on the percentage they will use to establish a base rent and the price increment they will use to increase or decrease the base rent when grain prices go up or down.

(continued)

Flexible Cash Rent (cont'd)

To get the base rent, take the long-term average yield in the area for the crop to be grown (e.g. 40 bu.) and multiply it by $2.00 (arbitary price) and by 35 per cent (agreed upon percentage) or (40 x 2.00 x .35) = $28.00 base rent per acre.

If it is agreed that the rent will be adjusted upward by $4.00 for each 40¢ increase in the price per bushel, and the price of the crop increases to $4.50 or by $2.50 per bushel (incl. C.W.B. payment), the landlord will get $53.00 per acre, $\left(\frac{2.50}{.40} \times 4.00\right)$ = 25.00 added to 28.00 = 53.00

If, on the other hand, the price of the crop dropped to $1.00, the landlord would receive $18.00 $\left(\frac{1.00}{.40} \times 4.00\right)$ = 10.00 subtracted from 28.00 = 18.00)

Mr. Kramer points out that the above figures bear no relationship to real yields or prices for a particular area. They are given only to illustrate how a flexible cash rent can be calculated on the basis of yield and price. Yields will vary from area to area, and rental rates will vary in different communities as well as in relation to the experience of the tenant, the payment terms, (in advance or later in the year) and whether or not the land has a history of erratic production.

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AGRI NEWS

GOOD SEED MONTH

"Don't Gamble---Use Certified Seed". That is this year's slogan for March---Good Seed Month!

It is a particularly apt slogan for this year because the germination of a large proportion of the 1974 crop may be well below average. Last year's late spring and early fall frosts severly damaged a lot of potentially good seed.

If you buy certified seed you are assured of good germination because all certified seed has to meet a minimum germination percentage.

Although farming is always a gamble because of the weather, pests and diseases, there is no reason that you should make it more of a gamble by taking a chance on the seed you plant. There is still plenty of top-quality certified seed available.

Alberta Agriculture promotes Good Seed Month every year to remind farmers of the advantages of using certified seed. Certified seed is grown and tested under strict regulations, which means that in addition to getting an assured germination percentage, the person who buys certified seed gets high quality seed that is true to variety.

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AGRI NEWS

CALGARY SEED FAIR AND HAY SHOW RESULTS

The 29th annual Calgary Seed Fair and Hay Show chairman, Larry Welsh, is pleased to announce the following winners in their respective classes. He says "Congratulations to the winners and a special thank you to everyone who entered the show."

GRAND CHAMPIONSHIP SEED - S. & A. Seed Farms Ltd., Brooks, Alberta
Exhibit: - Glacier Alfalfa

CHAMPIONSHIPS

Best Pedigreed Cereal: - Tony Crooymans, Box 572, Bow Island, Alberta
Exhibit: Wascana Durum Wheat 67 1/2 lb/bu.

Best Forage Seed: - S. & A. Seed Farms Ltd., Brooks, Alberta
Exhibit: Pedigreed Glacier Alfalfa

Best Oil Seed: - Roger J. Lee, Box 1155, Stettler, Alberta
Exhibit: Polish Type Rapeseed

Best Open Cereal: - Ralph Lyon, Box 155, Nanton, Alberta
Exhibit: two-row Malting Barley 59 lb/bu.

Best Hay or Silage: - Laverne Kurpjuweit, Box 31, Seven Persons, Alberta
Exhibit: Tame Grass Hay

Best Malting Barley - Ralph Lyon, Box 155, Nanton, Alberta
Exhibit: two-row Malting Barley 59 lb/bu.

Oats: Challenge Cup presented by Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, won by - Jim Chesterman, Edgerton, Alberta.
Pedigreed Random Oats 45 lb/bu.

Challenge Trophy - presented by Association of Alberta Co-op Seed Cleaning Plants Ltd. to the plant that cleaned the Grand Champion Lot (Open Classes)
won by: Nanton Seed Cleaning Plant Ltd.
Nanton, Alberta - Charles Greig, Manager
Exhibit: two-row Malting Barley.

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AGRI NEWS

BEGINNER BEEKEEPING COURSES

The Vermilion College is offering a beekeeping course for beginners involving six home-study lessons and a two-day seminar on April 29 and 30 and on September 11 and 12.

The two-day seminar in April has been designed to provide beginner beekeepers, hobbyist beekeepers and those who would like to work as apprentices for a commercial beekeeper, with on-the-job training at the college. During this period the student will handle bees and equipment under supervision. In the September two-day seminar he will help to harvest and store honey and learn about bee wintering techniques.

Topics covered in the course include choosing and setting up a beeyard, hive procedures, familiarization with equipment, swarm control, harvesting techniques, marketing and storage and wintering bees versus destroying them.

Enrollment is limited to 25 students and the tuition for the six home-study lessons and the two two-day seminars is $42.00.

Further information can be obtained from the registrar, Vermilion College, Vermilion.

Olds College Beekeeping Course

The Olds College will be offering an evening course in beekeeping on five Wednesdays, starting April 2.

(continued)

Beginner Beekeeping Courses (cont'd)

It is an introductory course designed especially for people who want to get established in bees, who keep bees for a hobby, or who would like to expand their hobby into a profitable business. The fee for this course is $12.00.

Further information can be obtained from the registrar, Olds College, Olds.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GREEN CERTIFICATE FARM TRAINING PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

A new training program for Alberta's future farmers and the first of its kind in Canada was announced jointly by Agriculture Minister Hugh Horner and Advanced Education Minister Jim Foster.

The new Green Certificate Farm Training Program will make maximum use of existing facilities and program offerings at Olds College, Fairview College, Lakeland College-Vermilion, and Lethbridge Community College, but will also expand opportunities for young Albertans to acquire the experience and knowledge associated with successful farm operations, the Ministers said.

One of the key aspects of the program will be on-farm training, towards which Alberta Agriculture will invite farmers to participate as trainers, using their own operation and facilities to train applicants in modern agriculture.

The practical element of the program, according to Dr. Horner and Mr. Foster, will supplement and add relevance to formal sessions at the respective colleges by providing the supportive knowledge required for agricultural production and management.

To be launched in the near future, the Green Certificate Farm training program will be developed on an on-going basis.

(continued)

Topic: Green Certificate Farm Training Program Announced (cont'd)

Curriculum or program content will be determined with the help of small groups of farm operators, who will meet and identify the appropriate practical skills and operational steps.

Candidates with considerable practical experience prior to enrolling in the new program will receive credit for skills already acquired, and will need less time to complete certificate requirements than those with little or no farming experience.

Individual training needs will be met through various combinations of existing college courses, special Green Certificate modules, and on-farm training.

While the program is oriented towards young prospective farmers, use of the material is open to the farming public at large through district extension offices, and does not require full participation in the program.

In addition to developing future farmers, the program will qualify managers, herdsmen, operators and other farm personnel, and is expected to appeal as well to urbanized young people interested in experiencing rural life and farm procedures. One of the main benefits anticipated is the strengthening of Alberta's agricultural population.

(continued)

Topic: Green Certificate Farm Training Program Announced (cont'd)

Alberta is initiating the program under a federal-provincial funding agreement to facilitate possible application in neighboring provinces. Ultimately, the Ministers predict, the Alberta Green Certificate Program may lead to reciprocal arrangements with other countries in the exchange of agricultural students. (The combination of on-farm training with schools of agriculture training is a common practice in a number of European countries.)

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AGRI NEWS

NUTRITIVE PROCESSING GRANTS

Development grants, jointly financed by the governments of Canada and Alberta, will be made to assist the construction of agricultural processing plants in rural Alberta.

Dr. Hugh Horner, Alberta's Minister of Agriculture, explained the nutritive processing assistance program after the signing of the joint agreement by Don Jamieson, Minister of Canada's Department of Regional Economic Expansion and Don Getty, Alberta's Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs.

Grants will be made to businessmen developing new or expanded viable "nutritive processing" plants in rural Alberta, that are outside the boundries of Calgary and Edmonton. The maximum grant will be 35 per cent of the capital cost employed in construction. The $17 million for the first two years of the five-year agreement will be a substantial contribution to the establishment of rural processing industries, says the Minister.

Nutritive processing operations, defines Dr. Horner, are those commercial operations in which raw or semi-processed nutritive products are altered, processed, refined or made more marketable for human, animal or plant consumption. Nutritive products, said the Minister, include those products consumed for nutritional purposes by humans, animals or plants.

(continued)

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Nutritive Processing Grants (cont'd)

Dr. Horner cited examples of nutritive processing plants as being cheese plants, honey extracting plants, alfalfa dehydrating plants, etc.

The ministers agree the objectives of the program are to encourage Alberta's stated priorities of balanced economic growth and diversification of the industrial base.

But the real emphasis, said Dr. Horner, is on developing stronger rural communities. More jobs will be available for the residents of rural Alberta and the processing facilities will serve to increase and stabilize net income of farmers supplying the raw products.

Dr. Horner announced that Norm Thomson of Alberta Agriculture will serve as the administrator of this program as well as other DREE programs.

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AGRI NEWS

CATTLE PRICE PROSPECTS

Alberta Agriculture marketing economist, Jim Dawson, expects fed cattle prices to reach about $40 per hundredweight by the end of March.

He bases his prediction on the fact that the heavy flow of cattle from feedlots is expected to slow down in the last half of this month and the fact that Canadian import quotas for U. S. slaughter cattle appeared to be filled in the last week of February.

Although the re-opening of the import quota at the beginning of April will, to some extent, dampen this price improvement, prices should show a steady increase during the second quarter of this year--getting back to the mid-$40 range or higher Also, with the import quota limiting the number of cattle coming into Canada, the price here should regain much of its advantage over the U. S. price. At the present time, there are few indicators of prices over $40 per hundredweight in the U. S. during the months ahead.

After August 12, the big question will be 'what happens to import quotas?' As Canadian prices go above those in the U. S., there will be considerable uncertainty about placing cattle on feed.

(continued)

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Cattle Price Prospects (cont'd)

And it is quite possible that the steer-heifer price differential will reappear to some extent in the late spring and early summer as the proportion of light carcasses increases.

Mr. Dawson also points out that as long as barley stays considerably above the $2 - level, a change in feeding programs will have to be accepted. This change will mean that light feeder cattle will not command a premium price. "Somebody will have to get these animals up to 700 pounds or more before they will be accepted by the feedlot operator", says Mr. Dawson.

This spring's market for heavy feeders is expected to be about the same as that of last fall--likely $36 to $40 per hundredweight. "The lightweights", Mr. Dawson says, "will have to find a home on pasture or be slaughtered as baby beef."

Cow prices can be expected to show some improvement this spring as cow marketings reach their seasonal low. However, the price of imported Austrailian boneless beef will hold the line on cow prices for at least another year.

1975 Supply Prospects

Our normal export volume of feeder cattle to the U. S. was cut off last fall by the U. S. import quota, leaving an extra 100,000 feeder cattle in Western Canada.

(continued)

Cattle Price Prospects (cont'd)

"Hopefully, calf and baby beef slaughter will offset most of this 100,000", says Mr. Dawson. "Last year's calf crop increased by 227,000 head."

An estimate of 1975 Canadian cattle and calf slaughter is about 3,686,000 head, representing an increase of 58,000 calves, 115,000 cows and 185,000 finished or partly finished beef animals, comprising a larger proportion of heifers than has been the case in previous years.

According to Mr. Dawson, the volume of cow slaughterings is difficult to predict because it will depend mainly on pasture conditions and on conditions in the beef industry. If it equals 11 per cent of the cow herd, it will represent 715,000 head. However, other estimates have favored 13 per cent, which was the case from 1965 to 1968 when the cow herd was being reduced. A 13 per cent kill rate would mean 850,000 cows slaughtered and the addition of 70,000,000 pounds (4 per cent) to the beef supply. "Much of the increase in cow slaughter is offset by a reduction in boneless beef imports", Mr. Dawson says.

He points out that the slaughter 'mix' is as important to the beef industry as the slaughter volume. The 'mix' determines average carcass weights and the total supply of beef.

(continued)

Cattle Price Prospect (cont'd)

In 1974 the average carcass weight dropped nine pounds, reducing the potential market supply by more than 1.5 per cent. A preliminary estimate for this year, based on more heifers slaughtered, more cows killed and less finish on feeder animals, is for an average carcass weight of 540 pounds. This would mean an increase in Canadian beef production of about 4.5 per cent. Carcass weights averaged 546 pounds in the last quarter of 1974.

For more detailed Quarterly Market Reviews write to:

The Market Analysis Branch
Alberta Agriculture
Agriculture Building
9718 - 107 Street
Edmonton, Alberta.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

NO SEED SHORTAGE

Alberta has no shortage of seed grain, despite earlier forecasts, according to Brian Stecyk of the Alberta Grain Commsission.

Mr. Stecyk says that although the Alberta Feed and Forage Exchange offices have listings of over half a million bushels of high germination grain for sale, they are receiving very few requests from potential buyers. At present, listings include 400,000 bushels of barley, 95,000 bushels of wheat, 99,000 bushels of oats, 5,000 bushels of rapeseed and varying amounts of miscellaneous seed. There is also some pedigreed seed listed.

Farmers wishing to buy grain are reminded that complete Feed and Forage Exchange listings are available at all the exchange offices, district agriculturists' offices, regional plant industry division locations and seed cleaning plants.

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RELEASED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH ALBERTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

AGDEX: 848

March 17, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

BLUE COLLAR STRIKE AND GRAIN PRODUCERS

"The strike by the federal government's blue collar workers is heavily penalizing Prairie grain farmers", says Nabi Chaudhary, transportation economist with Alberta Agriculture.

He reports that the Canadian Wheat Board paid over $17,000,000 as demurrage (penalty) to shipping and railway companies between August 1, 1973 and October 31, 1974 because of strikes; and that the situation has been worsening since last November.

In November, the grain inspectors strike hampered grain transportation operations for about two weeks. Now the grain weighers and samplers strike has shut down government grain elevators across the Prairies, with the result that more than 100 truckers are at least temporarily out of business

J. Ruteck, manager of the Trans-Mutual Truck Lines, reports that the loss in grain transportation is over 250,000 bushels a day. The Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) is already 25,000,000 bushels behind on last year's grain export shipments. Shipment of this grain should have been completed by the end of October, 1974. During the last five months, the CWB has had only six weeks when they were able to ship grain. The rest of the time there was either a strike or a shortage of railway cars.

(continued)

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Blue Collar Strike and Grain Producers (cont'd)

Ship owners charge 50¢ per ton per day as demurrage for each ship that is not able to load after a period of grace extending up to three days (72 hours). The capacity of ships used for transporting grain varies from 30,000 to 100,000 tons---one now sitting in Vancouver has a capacity of 145,000 tons. "If we take a round figure of 70,000 tons for the 28 ships now waiting to load," says Mr. Chaudhary, "it means farmers are paying $35,000 per day per ship. Even if federal authorities manage to reduce these penalties through negotiation, the sum paid per ship per day will still be well over $20,000."

In addition to the above situation, there are about 14,000 grain-filled boxcars sitting in Winnipeg because of the strike. Railway companies charge $10 to $15 per car a day after 48 hours as demurrage. "Rough estimates", says Mr. Chaudhary, "show that Prairie farmers are paying nearly $1,000,000 a day to shipping and railway companies during the present strike". In view of this situation the Canadian Federation of Agriculture certainly seems to be more than justified in passing a resolution that would make the federal government responsible for paying all demurrage charges.

Statistics Canada predicts a four per cent increase in this year's gross farm receipts, compared with 1974, but net farm income is expected to drop by 12 per cent.

(continued)

Blue Collar Stike and Grain Producers (cont'd)

In fact, the present strike and future events of this type could cause an even greater drop.

Mr. Chaudhary thinks that the federal government should take serious steps to avoid strikes like the one now in progress. "We may lose coustomers among importing nations if grain exports continue to he hampered", he says. "Since farmers cannot afford to bear such losses and produce grain economically, it may be that the government should declare services like the export grain service an essential service, and thereby make strike action illegal".

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March 17, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

RELIEF MILKING SERVICE FOR EDMONTON AREA

Alberta dairymen in the south Edmonton, Leduc and Calmar areas now have a relief milking service they can call on for a relief milker.

Organized by the Canada Farm Labour Pool in Edmonton, which works jointly with Alberta Agriculture under a federal-provincial agreement, the relief milking service is designed for dairy farmers who need temporary help because of illness in the family or to enable them to take a holiday.

At the present time the relief milking service has only one man, but the Canada Farm Labour Pool in Edmonton is in the process of hiring another. More relief milkers will be added if the demand warrants further expansion of the service.

Edmonton's relief milker comes from Calgary where he had his own 150-cow dairy herd. He is experienced in most of the milking systems being used today, and is prepared to take over any dairy operation.

His fee is $50 for an eight-hour day and $5 an hour for overtime. Room and board must also be provided if he is required to stay on the premises.

(continued)

Relief Milking Service For Edmonton Area (cont'd)

The charge in other areas of Canada, where a similar relief milking service is available, varies between $8 and $10 an hour for an eight-hour day. The Canada Labour Pool in Edmonton is providing free administration services and a free bookkeeping service for both dairymen and the relief milker to keep the cost of the service down.

A relief milking service, similar to the one in the Edmonton area, has been operating very successfully in the Red Deer milkshed for nearly a year now.

Anyone who would like to use Edmonton's relief milking service should contact Reginald Yandt, Canada Farm Labour Pool, 11749 - 95 Street, Edmonton (Phone 474-8277).

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AGDEX: 616

March 17, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

MEXICAN BEES

by Ulf Soehngen
Provincial Apiarist
Alberta Agriculture

"M E X I C O....Sunny but cold - yet warm at heart".

Strange comment? We seldom were as cold at night as we were when Paul Pawlowski, general manager of the Alberta Honey Producers' Co-op, Jerry Awram, former provincial apiarist, and I arrived in Mexico City during a rather unusual coldspell this winter, which found both hotels and taxis unprepared for below freezing temperatures. Nonetheless, the weather did little to dampen the warm spirit and hospitality with which we were received during our 12-day tour there.

In spite of a few minor setbacks, our efforts to obtain both queens and package bees from Mexican beekeepers and queen-breeders appear to have been successful. Two beekeepers, with whom we had previous contacts, have committed themselves to deliver between 1,500 and 2,000 two-pound packages during April; most of these will contain queens bred from North American stock, selected here last fall and delivered to Mexico as breeding stock.

Extra queens, reared for us by Miel Carlota (annual queen production 75,000 - 80,000 queens) from stock selected here and delivered to them in October, 1974, will also be available.

(continued)

RELEASED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH ALBERTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Mexican Bees (cont'd)

While in Cuernavaca, we had the opportunity to compare a number of colonies headed by North American queens with those of Miel Carlota's own strain; the difference was obvious. "Our" bees were very quiet on the combs and showed no aggression, while those of Mexican origin were much more nervous and ready to attack, a characteristic considered essential by many beekeepers in the Cuernavaca area.

By contrast, the bees we observed in the apiaries of "Lol-Cab", a queen breeder in Merida, Yucatan, were quiet on the combs and showed little aggressiveness, even when handled under unfavourable conditions. They were said to be derived from California stock, imported into Yucatan some years ago. In order to test their suitability for use under Alberta conditions, we ordered 1,000 queens from Lol-Cab.

Both queens and packages from Mexico will be available from Alberta Honey Producers' Co-operative Ltd., 16550 - 111th Avenue, Edmonton (Phone: 489-5577). The price of queens will be around $4 each, while packages will cost approximately $16. In order to be able to evaluate the feasibility of using package bees from Mexico, I have requested the Honey Producers' Co-op to restrict the sale of packages to commercial beekeepers, and to sell them in lots of 50 or more. The sale of queens will be open to all.

(continued)

Mexican Bees (cont'd)

The Department of Agriculture would like to extend our very warm thanks to the Alberta Honey Producers' Co-operative, and especially to Mr. Pawlowski and the board of directors, for agreeing to take on the difficult and time consuming task of supervising the shipment and distribution of queens and packages under this project.

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March 17, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

INCOME TAX ACT CHANGES OUTLINED

According to Alberta Agriculture's Farm Management Branch, there are several changes in the Canadian Income Tax Act which will affect farmer's 1974 tax returns.

* Personal exemptions have been increased. The new amounts based on the consumer price index, are printed on the income tax form.
* Subject to certain conditions, described in the income tax filing guide, a deduction of up to $1,000 of income obtained from interest is allowed.
* A taxpayer can now contribute to a registered retirement saving plan for his or her spouse to the extent that he does not use the maximum deduction for his own plan.
* Contributions are deductible from income tax at the rate of $1,000 a year to a maximum of $10,000.
* Family allowances are taxable on 1974 returns.

This year taxpayers who do not own a home can contribute to a registered home savings plan.

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March 17, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

TEMPERATURE CONVERSION TO DEGREES CELSIUS

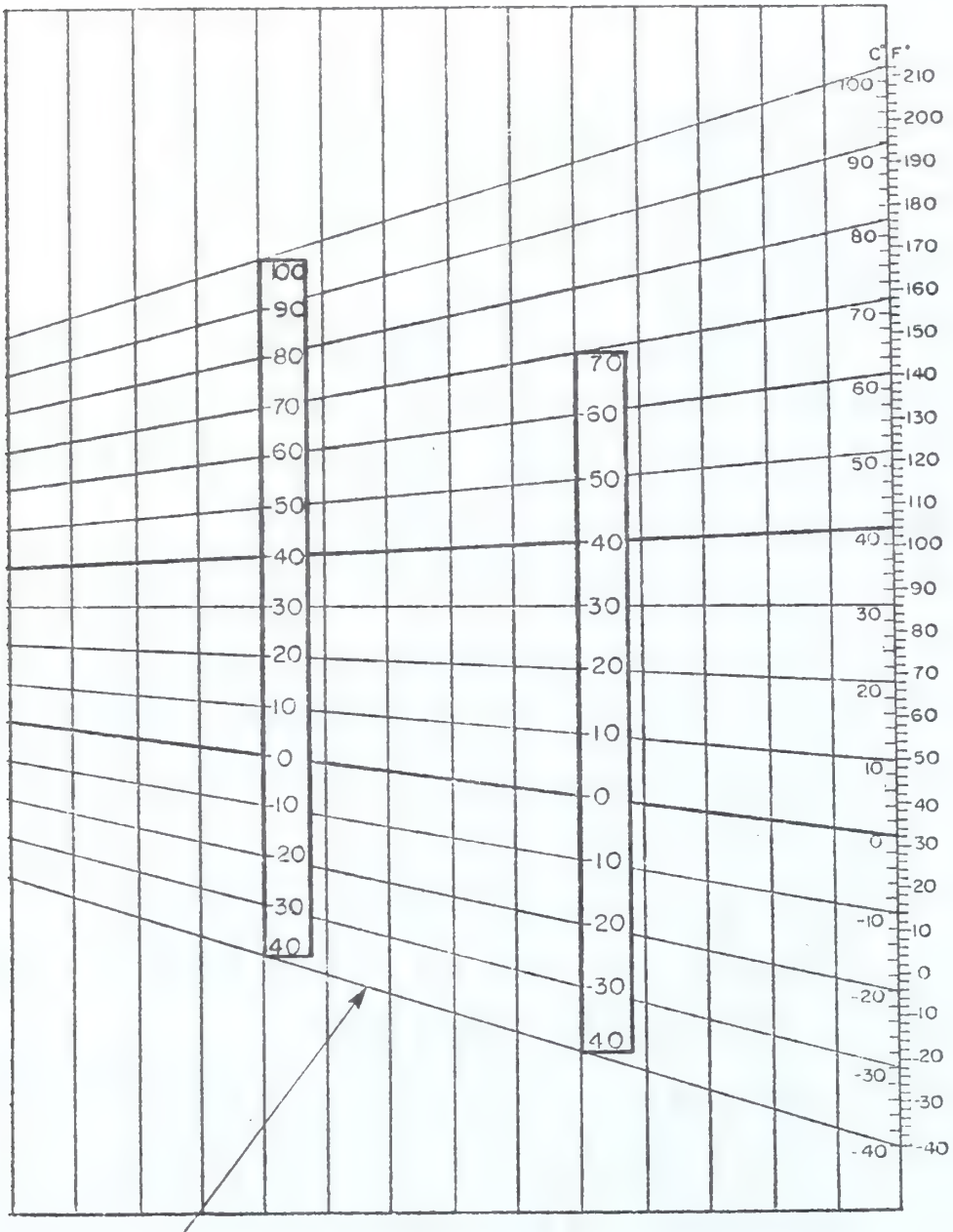
The date for changing our temperature records to degrees Celsius is April 1.

If you would like to change the face of your Fahrenheit thermometer so that you can read it directly in Celsius degrees, here is how the head of Alberta Agriculture's Engineering and Home Design Branch, George Calver, suggests you do it.

* Measure the length of the scale on your Fahrenheit thermometer.
* Cut a strip of light plastic or waterproof paper the same length.
* Place the strip beside your Fahrenheit thermometer and put a mark at the places which co-incide with 104° and 32° on the Fahrenheit scale.
* Mark these points 40°C. and 0°C. respectively.
* Using the chart below, put the point marked 40°C. on your strip on the 40°C. sloping line.
* Then, move your strip to the left or right until the 0°C. on it co-incides with the 0°C. line on the chart.
* Now mark all the other degrees on the Celsius scale on your strip of plastic or waterproof paper.

(continued)

MAKING A CELCIUS SCALE FOR A THERMOMETER



NOTE: THESE LINES CAN BE EXTENDED TO THE RIGHT IF YOUR THERMOMETER SCALE IS TOO LONG TO FIT, OR TO THE LEFT IF IT IS TOO SHORT.

AGDEX: 275/24

March 17, 1975

AGRI NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRUNING TIME AGAIN

Apart from a few exceptions, March and April are the months when you should prune your trees and shrubs, says Herman Oosterhuis, Alberta Agriculture's tree specialist.

He recommends annual pruning for two reasons: to preserve the health and vigor of trees and shrubs, and to guide their development into a desirable shape. Your goal should always be to preserve as closely as possible the natural shape of the tree or shrub.

Before you do anything else, remove any dead, broken or diseased wood. You can recognize it by its brittleness, dried up buds and absence of green in the underlying bark. Next remove suckers, watersprouts (succulent growth originating on the side branches) and any crossing branches. Branches that are touching will damage each other's bark, thereby making the tree more susceptible to disease and insect injury.

While your tree is still small, it is a good idea to remove the lower branches so that they will not interfere with anyone walking or working under the tree when it becomes a large tree. A nice clean trunk also improves the appearance of a tree.

(continued)

RELEASED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH ALBERTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Pruning Time Again (cont'd)

While the tree is still young is also the time to remove branches that are weak or that are growing in such a way that they are spoiling the overall appearance of the tree.

Mr. Oosterhuis recommends that you start training your trees and shrubs in the growth pattern you wish them to follow the year after you have planted them. If you wait until they become too large or ungainly for their location, you will have to cut them back severely, which will ruin their natural shape for ever. They may be a better size for their location, but they will also be, and remain, 'charicatures' of their original form.

Trees and shrubs that should not be pruned during the dormant season (before they leaf out) are spring flowering shrubs, and birch, maple, spruce and pine trees.

You should not prune spring flowering shrubs now, unless really necessary, because they set their flower buds on last year's wood. If you prune them now you cut off these buds. However, if your shrub requires severe pruning for some reason, you should do it now and sacrifice this year's blooms. The recommended time for normal pruning is when the shrubs have finished blooming in June.

Birch and maple trees should never be pruned in the spring because they 'bleed' severely from pruning wounds. This loss of sap weakens them and makes the wood susceptible to infection and disease.

(continued)

Pruning Time Again (cont'd)

It is better not to prune them at any time, but if they have to be pruned, you should do it in July when there is less sap running.

The beginning of June is the time for pruning spruce and pine trees. By this date their new growth has sprouted, but is still tender. Ideally, only part of this new growth should be removed during pruning.

A federal-provincial publication, entitled "The Pruning Manual", contains concise technical information on pruning deciduous trees and shrubs (those that lose their leaves), coniferous evergreens, and roses, and on methods of shearing hedges, removing tree limbs, dressing wounds etc. Each topic covered in the publications is illustrated with line drawings.

"The Pruning Manual" can be obtained from your district agriculturist or from the publications office, Alberta Agriculture, Agriculture Building, Edmonton.

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AGDEX: 616

March 17, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

BEEKEEPING COURSE OFFERED IN EDMONTON

The Department of Advanced Education at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) is offering a practical course in beekeeping from March 20 to May 22.

The objective of the course is to introduce participants to the basics of the 'bee world'. It will briefly cover the anatomy and physiology of bees; bee behavior; wintering package bees and their management; apiary and swarm control; sanitation and beekeeping equipment; and honey technology. Open discussions will be an important part of the course, which will also include at least one field trip.

The instructor is Dr. J. Awram who is well known in the beekeeping industry. No prerequisites are required for the course, which will be held every Thursday evening from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. at NAIT. The fee is $25.

Further information can be obtained from C. Schroder, assistant director of Continuing Education, NAIT, 11762 - 106 Street, Edmonton (Phone 477-4383).

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RELEASED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH ALBERTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

AGRI NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SHEEP SPECIALIST APPOINTED

The director of Alberta Agriculture's Animal Industry Division, W. C. Gordon, has announced the appointment of John Taylor to the position of senior livestock officer in charge of sheep. He replaces Gordon Wells who resigned earlier this year to become general manager of the Lamb Processors Co-op at Innisfail.

Mr. Taylor provides information to sheepmen on all aspects of sheep production and assists the Alberta Sheep and Wool Commission with promotional programs aimed at increasing the consumption of Alberta lamb and the use of Alberta wool. He also administers the provincial government's Ewe Retention Program.

He was raised on a sheep, wheat and cattle property in Australia and attended Hawkesbury Agricultural College in New South Wales. He graduated in 1964 with a Hawkesbury Diploma in Agriculture, having specialized in animal production. Following graduation, Mr. Taylor worked on a purebred sheep farm in New Zealand, until he left for North America in 1965.

He attended Washington State University, graduating in 1969 with a Bachelor of Science degree. His major was Animal Biology. Two years later he received his Master of Science degree from the same university, having specilaized in Reproductive Physiology.

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RELEASED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH ALBERTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Sheep Specialist Appointed (cont'd)

He obtained his Doctor of Philosophy degree from Colorado State University in 1971. His area of specialization was range nutrition.

From 1972-1974, Mr. Taylor worked for a subsiduary of the American Breeders Service in Calgary. His responsibilities included the Blue Tongue Testing Program and a number of overseas assignments.

In 1974 he became general manager of the Ovum Transfer Center in Calgary.

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March 24, 1975

AGRI NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAR 24 1975

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663

March 24, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

CALF SCOURS RESEARCH FINDINGS

Recent research in Western Canada has shown that good management is the only real solution to calf scours, which is estimated to cost Alberta cattlemen $14,000,000 a year.

Dr. Frank Baker of Alberta Agriculture's Veterinary Field Services Branch reports that a number of important factors have been discovered recently which should greatly strengthen management's hand.

Probably the most significant of these is the importance of colostrum, the first milk of a newly calved animal. Besides being rich in essential nutrients, it contains immunoglobulins, which contain antibodies against disease. Without these antibodies, a calf has little chance of combatting scours.

Unlike human babies, calves are born without antibodies and must obtain them quickly through the colostrum.

"Quickly" is the key word! It is most important that the newborn calf receives a sufficient amount of colostrum within two to three hours of birth. After six hours, something, as yet unexplained, happens to the intestinal wall that prevents absorbtion into the calf's body of any appreciable quantity of antibodies.

(continued)

RELEASED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH ALBERTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Calf Scours Research Findings (cont'd)

Calves which have a high level of antibodies are not completely immune to calf scours, but usually have a milder illness and have a much better chance of recovering.

The majority of calf scour cases occur in calves under two weeks of age. The chances of a calf under 14 days of age dying from calf scours is three and a half times greater than if it scours after that age.

Another significant finding is that calves born to first-calf heifers are twice as susceptible to scouring as calves born to older cows, and they are four times more likely to die from scours than other calves. Several reasons could be suggested for this.

Heifers

Because heifers are often confined in a small area so that they can be watched, the chances of a concentration of infection and its rapid spread to new-born claves are high. Then, because heifers often have difficulty calving, their calves are likely to be weak and unable to suckle during the first few critical hours when the antibodies in the colostrum are readily absorbed by the intestinal wall. Thirdly, heifers often do not have sufficient colostrum to ensure that their calves receive an adequate supply of antibodies to combat disease--it has been calculated that an 80-pound calf needs at least one to two pints of colostrum during the first two to three hours of life and two quarts in the first 10 hours of life.

(continued)

Calf Scours Research Findings (cont'd)

Finally, since heifers have not been exposed to as wide a variety of diseases as older cows, they have a lower concentration of antibodies than a mature cow.

Extra attention, then, is needed for calves born to first-calf heifers. By making sure that they receive colostrum early, and in sufficient quantity, you may greatly reduce your scour problems. Colostrum from dairy cows or older cows in your herd can be stored in the deep freeze and thawed for use when heifers are calving. Thaw the colostrum slowly. "Avoid heat, as it will destroy the immunoglobulins, and don't refreeze the colostrum", Dr. Baker says.

Weather

Weather, as cattlemen know only too well, greatly influences calf scour outbreaks. In the spring break-up when calves are unable to find a dry place to lie, severe scour outbreaks often occur. Spring snow storms often herald a bout of calf scours. Some people think that the storm 'stresses' the calves, making them susceptible to disease. Others feel that nursing patterns are upset during the storm, and that calves overload on milk when the storm abates.

(continued)

Calf Scours Research Findings (cont'd)

Space

There seems to be a definite correlation between the incidence of calf scours and the space available for each calving cow. The more confined the cows are at calving time, the greater the incidence of calf scours. When one or two calves start to scour in a particular area, animals that are about to calve should be moved away to break the cycle of infection.

Dr. Baker says, "Calving in corrals and barns, particularly when it continues year after year, would seem to be inviting calf scour problems." Open pastures with adequate protection such as windbreaks and portable calf shelters are much preferred.

"The nutritional status of a herd during the winter months probably greatly influences the herd's ability to withstand a calf scour outbreak," Dr. Baker says.

Vaccines

"Cattlemen should realize that the subject of calf scours is very complex. There is no simple solution to the problem. However, one thing seems certain - there is not, and there probably never will be, a vaccine or simple cure for this complex problem."

(continued)

Calf Scours Research Findings (cont'd)

Disease-producing bacteria such as Salmonella, certain strains of E. coli, and Clostridia, as well as such viruses as Reo, Corona, Bovine Virus Diarrhea, Infectious Bovine Rinotracheitis and Chlamydia, have all been implicated in calf scours.

"What cattlemen must realize," Dr. Baker explains, "is that a particular vaccine is specific for a particular organism. If that particular organism is causing the calf scours, then the vaccine may help to control the disease. If, on the other hand, the problem is due to any of the many other possible agents, the vaccine will not help and may even aggravate the situation."

According to Dr. Baker, a research scientist at Canada Agriculture's Research station at Lacombe, Dr. John Bradley, has contributed a great deal to our knowledge of calf scours. He has drastically reduced the incidence of this disease at the institution by removing cows and calves from the calving area immediately after the cows calve, and by dividing the cows into groups of 35 to 40 head.

Research into calf scours has also been carried out at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM) in Saskatoon since 1971 under the direction of Dr. S. Acres and Dr. O. Radostitis, to mention only two of the dedicated workers trying to find a solution to this costly problem.

(continued)

Calf Scours Research Findings (cont'd)

In addition to this research, a field investigation of neonatal dirrhea (scours in newborn) was carried out in 1972 and 1973 in Alberta cattle herds that had experienced a problem with this disease. It included an analysis of 600 cow-calf herd records to collect epidemiological data on calves.

AGDEX: 753

March 24, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

BE CAREFUL WHEN BUYING IRRIGATION EQUIPMENT

If you are planning to buy irrigation equipment make sure that the dealer from whom you intend to buy it is properly licensed, advises the administrator of the Alberta Farm Implement Act, Ed Wiens.

Recently there has been a significant increase in the number of people and firms selling irrigation equipment, but only those licensed as farm implement dealers under the Farm Implement Act can legitimately sell this equipment.

Dealers licensed under the Act are required by law to provide adequate service for the equipment they sell, to have proper shop facilities, and to carry a supply of repair parts so that they are capable of looking after the equipment after they have sold it.

"With irrigation equipment continually becoming more complex, it is increasingly important that adequate servicing and spare parts be available," Mr. Wiens says.

He also urges anyone who buys irrigation equipment to make sure that he receives a properly completed, and signed, sales contract which outlines the conditions of sale and specifies a one-year warranty on the equipment.

(continued)

Be Careful When Buying Irrigation Equipment (cont'd)

Len Ring, the Alberta Irrigation Division's irrigation systems engineer, points out that his division has staff located throughout the province who are prepared to help farmers planning to install an irrigation system with the design of that system. All you have to do to obtain this free service is to contact your district agriculturist or the Alberta Irrigation Division's headquarters in Lethbridge.

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AGDEX: 149/621

March 24, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI-NEWS

INSECT OUTLOOK FOR 1975 RAPESEED CROPS

"Bertha armyworms are not expected to cause any problems in Alberta rapeseed crops this year."

This statement was made by Alberta Agriculture's entomologist and pest control specialist, Michael Dolinski. It is based on surveys and light trap moth samples collected last summer and fall. He points out that intensive research carried out by federal research stations in Western Canada, over the last few years, has made it possible to accurately forecast the likelihood of Bertha armyworm infestations.

He reports that the same surveys and light trap samples indicate that rapeseed growers should not experience any problems with either clover cutworms or alfalfa loopers. However, because little is known about the habits of these insects in Alberta, there is always a chance of 'spotty' infestations arising in any year.

The two moth-type insects that could cause a problem in rape crops are the diamond-backed moth and the beet webworm. Both are unpredictable. The diamond-backed moth is unpredictable because it migrates to Alberta from the United States, and the beet webworm is unpredictable because knowledge is lacking on its over-wintering mortality.

(continued)

RELEASED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH ALBERTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Insect Outlook for 1975 Rapeseed Crops (cont'd)

Although beet webworm populations in southern Alberta have been low during the last few years, they could cause local problems. They are usually more of a problem to sugar beet growers than to rapeseed producers. However, when moth population are high in the spring, they sometimes invade rape crops.

Beetles are the other group of insects that attack rape crops. Two common types in Aberta are the flea beetle and the red turnip beetle. "Rapeseed growers who had problems with these insects last year should be prepared for infestations this year," Mr. Dolinski says.

Flea beetles are more prevalent in southern Alberta while red turnip beetles are more of a problem in the northern part of the province, particularly in the Peace region. However, if action is taken before any serious damage occurs, both species of beetles are relatively easy to control.

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March 24, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

ALBERTA - CANADA BALER TWINE SITUATION

A shortage of baler twine is not expected in Alberta this year, except in isolated instances, but the price is expected to remain in the range of $25 to $35 per bale of twine.

Alberta Agriculture's statistician, Chuck Sterling, reports that baler twine for Alberta's annual requirements of eight to 10 thousand tons should be easily met. "There is considerable carryover of twine from last year's crop already on farms", he says, "and a considerable amount in dealers's warehouses or on order for early delivery."

The current baler twine situation has resulted from a series of events closely related to tame hay production over the past several years. The average tame hay acreage in Alberta increased sharply from 2.86 million acres during the years 1965-1969 to 3.4 million acres from 1970 to 1972. This increase was partly due to the federal Lift Program, the federal Grassland Incentive Program and to an increase in the province's livestock population. The total average production in Alberta during this period jumped to 6.1 million tons from 4.0 million tons.

In addition to the production of hay from good land taken out of grain, the increased hay production in Alberta can be attributed to better than average yields.

(continued)

RELEASED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH, ALBERTA

Alberta - Canada Baler Twine Situation (cont'd)

"This increase in hay production on a national basis was sufficient to increase Canadian baler twine imports from 47 million pounds in 1970 to 80 million pounds in 1971 and to 88 million pounds in 1972," Mr. Sterling reports. "Over this period twine prices remained relatively stable with average quality baler twine selling to the farmer for under $8 per 40-pound bale."

However, prices began to increase in the fall of 1973 for several reasons. Raw hemp prices went up from the normal 10¢ a pound to over 50¢ a pound.

Transportation problems in Bangladesh prompted farmers to leave their unsold jute crops in their fields to rot. Then early in 1974 twine production from plants in Tanzania was reduced. One large plant was destroyed by fire and the remaining plants were working on a three-day week basis because of power shortages. Elsewhere, higher twine prices forced small distributors out of the market and put additional pressure on the larger companies which had already bought their supplies.

During this period of rapidly escalating prices, Mr. Sterling says "Alberta farmers were kept well informed on price changes by both private industry and other sources. They were encouraged to buy their twine supplies at existing prices because the outlook indicated still further price hikes."

(continued)

Alberta - Canada Baler Twine Situation (cont'd)

As a result of this excellerated demand in Alberta and other parts of Canada, Canadian baler twine imports for the period October 1973 to September 1974 increased by more than 15 million pounds. This increase alone is enough to bale roughly 20 per cent of the annual hay production in Canada or nearly all the hay produced in Alberta. In addition, Canadian twine imports during October 1974 were almost double those for October 1973.

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AGDEX: 811

March 24, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

COMPUTER PROGRAM PACKAGE

Are you aware of CANFARM's computer planning package that is available to you from a computer in Guelph, Ontario, through terminal links with Alberta Agriculture's regional offices at Edmonton, Red Deer, Calgary and Lethbridge. Similar facilities are planned in the near future for the Vermilion, Barrhead and Fairview regional offices.

This package contains two financial planning programs, one crop planning program, two machinery planning programs, and two livestock planning programs. You can use all of them at once or choose only one or two. The only thing you have to do to take advantage of this free service is to complete the required 'unput' forms.

FINANCIAL PLANNING

The Loan Calculator Program gives you the true percentage interest rate on your proposed loan and the loan charges you will be required to pay.

The Cash Flow Forecaster Program interprets your crop and livestock plans in terms of the cash flow, on a monthly basis, both into and out of the farm business.

(continued)

RELEASED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH ALBERTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Computer Program Package (cont'd)

CROP PLANNING

The Crop Enterprise Budget Program allows you to choose the most profitable crop plan among several alternative plans by forecasting the income and expenses that will be associated with each plan for the year.

MACHINERY PLANNING

The Machinery Buying Versus Custom Hire Program calculates the full cost of owning and operating a machine and compares it with the cost of custom hiring the same machine.

The Machinery Replacement Program suggests at what future date it will be more profitable for you to replace your present machine with a new one.

LIVESTOCK PLANNING

The Livestock Budget Program, like the Crop Enterprise Budget Program, allows you to choose the most profitable livestock plan among several alternative plans.

The Feed Formulation Service Program shows you the least cost mixture of feeds that you will require to satisfy the nutritional needs of any particular type of livestock.

(continued)

Computer Program Package (cont'd)

You can obtain 'input' forms, information on completing them and an interpretation of the results from your district agriculturist or regional farm economist.

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CORRECTION: "Calgary Seed and Hay Show Results" (March 10 issue of "Agri-News")

The Balzac Seed Cleaning Plant won the Challenge Trophy, presented by the Association of Alberta Co-op Seed Cleaning Plants, for the best sample of cereal seed cleaned by a municipal Co-op seed cleaning plant. The manager is Walter Goebel.

It was previously announced that the Nanton Seed Cleaning Plant, managed by Charles Greig, had won this trophy, but plant regulations barred it from accepting the trophy because the Nanton plant had already won it for three consecutive years. Under the rules of the competition, the Nanton Plant cannot compete for the trophy for three years following its three consecutive wins.

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March 24, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

BEEKEEPERS REQUIRE A SALES PERMIT

Are you planning to sell your bee equipment? Or are you thinking of replacing your worn out supers with good second-hand supers?

The Alberta Bee Act states that all beekeeping equipment that changes hands, regardless of whether or not it remains in the province, is sold or given as a gift, must be accompanied by a sales permit. This permit is issued by the provincial apiarist's office after the operation has been inspected by an apiary inspector.

If a light infection of American Foulbrood is present, a conditional permit may be issued, limiting the sale of the equipment to an experienced beekeeper. This conditional permit also ensures that the prospective buyer is aware of the presence of the disease.

Although the seller is responsible for requesting a sales permit, the buyer of used beekeeping equipment is responsible for making sure that it was issued before he buys the equipment.

Copies of the Bee Act can be obtained, free of charge, from the provincial apiarist's office, 6905 - 116 Street, Edmonton (427-2450).

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RELEASED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH ALBERTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

AGDEX: 641

March 24, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

DON'T GIVE GROUND TO WEEDS

Could you answer the following questions? They were submitted by farmers who took part in Alberta Agriculture's weed control course in central Alberta, and have been answered by weed control specialist Keith Price.

Question: How can tansy mustard and flixweed be controlled in wheat and barley crops? I have noticed fall working of stubble will kill them, but how do you control those that become established in the spring?

Answer: Fall tillage or fall spraying with six ounces per acre of 2,4-D is the key to controlling these weeds. If your soil is subject to erosion use the herbicide.

Tansy mustard and flixweed belong to a group of plants known as winter annuals. They are capable of fall germination and send up shoots early in the spring. Because their roots are already established, their growth in the spring is very rapid, and they reach a resistant stage to both cultivation and herbicides before control can be carried out.

Seeds that germinate in the spring are usually easily controlled with an application of 2,4-D, MCPA or related compounds.

(continued)

RELEASED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH ALBERTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Don't Give Ground to Weeds (cont'd)

Question: I have never been able to find any information on a grassy weed which is a serious problem in our area. This weed is called Persian darnel.

Answer: Persian darnel is an annual grass, first introduced into this country from Europe in 1923, which has the potential of becoming a serious weed problem here. It is similar in color to wheat and has awned seeds, resembling miniature barley kernels. It grows six to 18 inches high and its spikelets grow edgewise to the stem rather than broadside to the stem as is the case with quack grass. The seed germinates early in the spring, and can be controlled by shallow tillage in the fall or in the spring (to promote germination) and by delayed seeding. Although Treflan should give some control, it is not yet approved for this purpose.

Question: We have trouble in this district with a weed known as lady's-thumb. How do you control it?

Answer: Lady's-thumb, pale smartweed and green smartweed are all similar and their seedlings are all easily controlled in cereal crops with bromoxynil (Buctril-M and Brominal M). Dicamba (Banvel, Banvel 3) is recommended when these weeds are in a more advanced stage of growth, but even then they should be treated as early as possible.

(continued)

Don't Give Ground to Weeds (cont'd)

Question: I have noticed that certain problem weeds originated as ornamentals or garden plants that have since gone wild. Some of these plants are still available from seed catalogues. What is being done to protect the farmer against the spread of these weeds.

Answer: It is hard to know in advance how a plant will react in a new environment. However, if it becomes apparent that it is going wild, municipal authorities can declare it a noxious weed in the area, which means it is subject to all the Weed Control Act regulations. If the problem is wide-spread, it may be declared a noxious weed throughout the province.

Question: Feed companies use weedy rolled oats to clean the augers on their feed trucks. I have noticed wild oat seed quite capable of sprouting after having gone through a roller mill. Maybe we need some kind of legislation on that!

Answer: We have it. The Weed Control Act states that "No person shall deposit or permit to be deposited any weed seeds or material containing weed seeds in any place that they may grow or spread".

Weed inspectors in each county enforce this act. However, offences like the one mentioned above are difficult to detect unless brought to the attention of the weed inspector. There is always the chance that the ground feed does not contain any weed seeds.

(continued)

Don't Give Ground to Weeds (cont'd)

If you have any questions on weed control problems that you would like answered, send them to Arnold Stearman, Weed Control Branch, Alberta Agriculture, Agriculture Building, Edmonton.

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March 24, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

PROGRESSIVE FARMING DAYS

Progressive Farming Days---FIELD, FOOD, FUN '75---was officially kicked off at the Olds College earlier this month with a joint meeting of sponsors, organizers and exhibitors.

Formerly held in the winter, this show will take on a new look and approach for '75. It is to be held from June 24 to June 27---so that forage systems can be seen in action---and this year's theme is ANYTHING THAT IS NEW! The focus will be mainly on forage systems, farmstead mechanization equipment and outdoor living.

All types of haying equipment and silage equipment will be displayed and demonstrated at this show. The farmstead mechanization section will feature livestock and feed handling systems, with general farm equipment receiving secondary emphasis.

Olds College is WHERE IT'S AT! Mark your calender for the last week of June for FIELD, FOOD, FUN '75!

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RELEASED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH ALBERTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

March 24, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIST APPOINTED

Ken Porter, head of Alberta Agriculture's Production Economics Branch, has appointed Lloyd Andruchow to the position of agricultural economist.

Mr. Andruchow will work on production cost studies requested by government or farmer-grower associations concerning specific enterprises. He will meet farmers and farmer organization members to collect data for these studies and will be responsible for up-dating cost study publications. The cost studies are expected to have many uses in the agricultural community in that they can be used as 'bench-marks' for comparing and interpreting individual situations.

Raised on a mixed farm 70 miles north-east of Edmonton, Mr. Andruchow obtained his B. Sc. in Agriculture from the University of Alberta in 1973. His majors were Agricultural Engineering and Agricultural Economics.

Following graduation he worked on the family farm and as a conservation officer for the county of Two Hills. At the end of 1973, he was employed under the Priority Employment Program by Alberta Agriculture's Resource Economics Branch for the Livestock Feasibility Study.

(continued)

RELEASED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH ALBERTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Economist Appointed (cont'd)

From April 1974 until his present appointment, Mr. Andruchow worked on the family farm and under the ARDA III Program as an inspector of new watering facilities for livestock.

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AGRI NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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March 31, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

WHEAT PRICE DEVELOPMENTS

Wheat price prospects for the remainder of this and for the next crop year remain uncertain as the market continues to exhibit extreme volatility with exaggerated reflections of even minor pieces of news.

Peter Perkins, Alberta Agriculture's marketing economist, says "If prospects for the new crop year continue to look bright, the market will continue an overall downward trend. Wheat prices of around $3 a bushel seem a reasonable expectation with respect to realized prices from the 1975-76 Wheat Pool Account."

He points out that wheat contract cancellations, particularly to China and Russia, and deferals by some nations of other contracts to new crop shipments are the most serious recent developments in the wheat sector. These moves have returned more than 1 million metric tonnes (36.7 million bushels) of previously committed wheat to now available stocks and have forced prices down. Also, an additional 1 million tonnes of wheat now appears to be available from the European Economic Community, which recently increased their export availability figure by this much. However, this dramatic change in the supply situation has been partially offset by the United States which has considerably increased its food aid program.

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RELEASED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH ALBERTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Wheat Price Developments (cont'd)

In January of this year the USDA projected world 1974-75 wheat production at about 346 million tonnes. With consumption likely to reach 354 million tonnes, the stocks of major producers would fall to 47.6 million tonnes or some 15 per cent below the previous year's level. However, consumption now seems likely to be lower than projected because, in addition to the import/export prediction being revised downwards, domestic disappearance in the major consuming nations seems to be less than anticipated.

On the other hand, any serious reduction in the demand for wheat is unlikely because wheat is a basic component of staple food diets. However, Mr. Perkins points out that any indication of a decline from previously projected levels provides a sufficiently 'bearish' influence on the market to put downward pressure on prices.

Of more concern to Prairie wheat growers is the prospect of large increases in world wheat production in the 1975-76 crop year. According to Mr. Perkins, winter wheat plantings in the United States were up six per cent from the previous year. Despite the small decline anticipated in spring wheat planting, a strong base exists for a 57 million metric tonne harvest, if yields are normal, which would be 17 per cent higher than the record crop of 1974-75.

(continued)

Wheat Price Developments (cont'd)

The situation is likely to be similar in Canada. "While the Canadian Wheat Board's 'hopes' of 26 million acres in wheat may not be realized, normal seeding conditions are likely to result in an increased acreage; and normal yields could boost Canadian output by 20 per cent or more to around 17 million metric tonnes", Mr. Perkins says.

Although European wheat production is expected to be lower this year, good growing conditions in Russia and India are likely to offset reduced production in that region. Recent heavy snowfalls in both Russia and the United States have eased concern for the condition of winter crops in the wheatbelts of those countries. The final outcome and eventual price prospects for the new season will depend very much, however, on weather conditions in the intervening months, and continued prospects of at least normal yields, will manitain a 'bearish' influence on the market and lower prices in the 1975-76 crop year must be anticipated.

For more detailed quarterly market reviews regarding grains and oilseeds write to:

The Market Analysis Branch
Alberta Agriculture
Agriculture Building
9718 - 107 Street
Edmonton, Alberta

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865

March 31, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

FEED GRAIN PRICE OUTLOOK

Feed grain prices are not expected to go below present levels until at least the new season's crop prospects become definite.

Peter Perkins, marketing economist with Alberta Agriculture, predicts that Canadian barley prices will hover around the Canadian Wheat Board's initial price which will put Alberta street prices at around $2 a bushel. Although there may be the occasional rise above this level, the overall trend points to these prices representing a reasonable expectation for the next few months.

"The outlook for this year's harvest", Mr. Perkins says, "will have a significant bearing on future market developments and new crop prices." Early intentions to seed indicate a slight reduction in the potential U. S. corn acreage. However, this reduction has been offset by large increases in barley and sorghum seeding intentions. Mr. Perkins points out that only normal yields will be enough to increase U. S. feed grain production by 25 per cent, and for the new season prices to move lower than current prices.

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Feed Grain Price Outlook (cont'd)

A similar situation exists in Canada. The Canadian Wheat Board is urging increases in barley and oat acreages of 12.5 and 6.0 million acres respectively. With normal weather, and average yields, barley production will rise by about 26 per cent and oats by 15 per cent.

According to Mr. Perkins, such substantial boosts in production could only have a detrimental impact on future price developments. With the profit picture in the livestock industry continuing to look gloomy, the larger supply would almost certainly be met by a reduced demand.

On the brighter side, however, there is the likelihood that lower grain prices will encourage more livestock feeding in spite of lower beef prices. "It is a question of what price levels are needed to produce normal usage of feed grains," Mr. Perkins says. "Present expectations for the new corn crop in the U. S. appear to indicate prices will level off in the $2 a bushel range with Canadian barley prices, therefore, in the $1.50 a bushel range.

Mr. Perkins points out that current information indicates that the use of feed grains has been cut back more than was necessary to ease the pressure on grain supplies.

(continued)

Feed Grain Price Outlook (cont'd)

He says "Projections of a 17 per cent cut in feed usage in the United States appears assured in view of the facts that cattle on feed numbers seem to be still falling and the tendency is still continuing towards marketing lighter cattle, fed short term rations."

However, the international situation is not as black as that in the United States. Mr. Perkins explains that many governments have intervened with programs designed to help their troubled livestock industries through these difficult times. Although supplies will remain tight until a good harvest boosts available stocks, the prospects for dangerously low feed grain inventories now appear less likely than was feared a few months ago.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

OILSEEDS PRICE OUTLOOK

It seems likely that rapeseed prices will range between $4.50 and $6 a bushel for the remainder of this crop year, and that they will settle at the lower end of this range as the new harvesting season approaches, providing weather conditions are reasonable.

Alberta Agriculture's marketing economist, Peter Perkins, points out that the demand for oilseeds and oilseed products has softened significantly in recent months as processors reduce their crushings and permit their inventories of seed input to run down in response to the deteriorating general economic climate. He says this sutuation has been particularly noticeable in the United States where recent statistics indicate a decline in crushings, but an accumlation of meal stocks. To a lesser extent it has also been noticeable with oil stocks as crushers face difficulties in selling the end products.

On the other hand, the supply situation has improved with a substantial increase in soybean production in Brazil and a relaxation in that country's export restrictions. According to Mr. Perkins, Russia appears to have a sizable accumulation of sunflower oil stocks, and palm oil production has increased, with the result that there is no longer a shortage of oil supplies to meet the current demand.

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Oilseeds Price Outlook (cont'd)

He says "Projections of a further increase in oil and meal supplies this year continue to create downward pressure on prices. Indications of a better than 41 million metric tonne (1,510 million bushels) soybean harvest in the United States from their indicated 5.7 per cent acreage increase will continue to limit any strong price rallies in the edible oilseed market."

The American situation has had a strong impact on Canadian rapeseed prices which have fallen more than 40 per cent in the past three months to break the $5 barrier in Alberta for the first time in almost a year. "The volatile nature of the market", Mr. Perkins says, "is expected to continue until the new season's crop prospects become more apparent, with wide fluctuations predominating for the next four or five months.

"Price prospects for the new crop year will depend upon weather conditions in Canada and other parts of the world, as well as on developments in the international economy. If the Canadian Wheat Board's target of 4 million acres planted to rapeseed in 1975 is realized, and normal yields are achieved, output will increase some 30 per cent over the 1974 production. With increases in the production of competing oilseeds elsewhere in the world, prices will likely continue to work themselves down in the $4 range and perhaps even lower.

(continued)

Oilseeds Price Outlook (cont'd)

Unfortunately market prospects for flaxseed are no brighter than those for rapeseed. Fears of short supplies now appear unwarranted, and there have been substantial cutbacks in the demand for linseed oil. "Fears of an economic recession have caused severe cutbacks in the construction industry, and there are indications of sharply reduced housing 'starts' in North America this year, which will mean a decline in paint requirements, Mr. Perkins says.

"The weakening in demand for linseed oil has recently led to Argentina lifting its export ban on linseed which was imposed late last year when there were fears of a shortage. In addition, the USDA recently revised upwards its estimate of world flaxseed production for 1974 which now stands at 2.28 million metric tonnes."

Developments in the flaxseed market now appear to be directly tied to the general economy, and increases in flaxseed prices above $7.50 seem destined to be short lived in this time of generally depressed economic conditions.

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846

March 31, 1975

AGRI-NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARKETING OF DEHYDRATED POULTRY WASTE

A survey carried out by Alberta Agriculture's Poultry Branch indicates a large number of statistically significant differences in patterns of fertilizer consumption, in perceivable influences on consumer choices and in consumer attitudes towards organic fertilizers.

The survey was carried out last year, under the direction of poultry specialist, Gerry Patsula, in the Calgary and Edmonton areas, to determine the marketing potential for dried poultry waste (DPW) as an organic fertilizer for urban gardens, particularly lawns, and as a soil conditioner. The results were based on the responses on 500 questionnaires. Respondents were asked to indicate the kind of fertilizers they bought; where they bought them; how much they bought; where they used them; what advertising media influenced their choices and what their attitudes were to inorganic and organic fertilizers.

The results were divided into the following three categories:

(continued)

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Marketing of Dehydrated Poultry Waste (cont'd)

Patterns of Fertilizer Consumption

Over 86 per cent of the respondents to the questionnaire said they used granulated inorganic fertilizers in 1973. Approximately 16 per cent had used bulk organic fertilizers and 13 per cent had used a liquid fertilizer. In other words, six out of seven of the people who responded to the questionnaire used inorganic fertilizers and one person in seven used organic fertilizers.

"Elephant Brand", "Vigero" and "Sheritt Gordon" inorganic fertilizer brands were significantly more popular than others. In the organic fertilizers unprocessed farm manures proved considerably more popular than organic brand fertilizers.

The amount of fertilizer used in 1973 averaged 77 pounds per household for granulated inorganic fertilizers, 11.5 ounces for liquid inorganic fertilizers, and 415 pounds for bulk organic fertilizers.

Significantly more people use fertilizers on their lawns than for trees, shrubs, flowers, vegetables and house plants. Farm manure was used only in vegetable and flower gardens.

There was a considerable difference in the frequency that various types of plants were fertilized. People who fertilize their lawn usually apply the fertilizer three to four times a year, while those who fertilize their flower and vegetable gardens (most likely to use organic fertilizers) do so only once a year.

(continued)

Marketing of Dehydrated Poultry Waste (cont'd)

Fifty per cent of the respondents who use fertilizers reported having someone in the family with a farm background. These people were more likely to use an organic fertilizers like "El Toro" (cattle manure) or "Alberta Guano" (chicken manure), while people without a farm background preferred to use "Sewage Sludge".

Influence on the Consumer

Prior to making their purchase, people who buy fertilizers generally rely on their own experience and knowledge. However, they are moderately influenced by package instructions, and the advice of neighbors and store clerks and by Alberta Agriculture.

The daily newspaper appeared to be the most significant advertising media, but the type of advertising media to which the consumer gave most credit bore no relationship to where he bought his fertilizer.

Approximately 50 per cent of those surveyed reported purchasing their fertilizers from department store garden centres. The greatest influence at the point of purchase was the analysis and instructions for use printed on the package.

(continued)

Marketing of Dehydrated Poultry Waste

Consumer Attitudes Towards Forms of Fertilizer

The response to this section of the survey can be summarized by saying "Consumers liked the 'natural' fertilizers and the 'soil conditioning' properties of organic fertilizers, but disliked their smell and bulkiness. They liked the ease of application associated with inorganic fertilizers but did not like their 'burning' tendencies".

When asked to rank their preferences among organic fertilizers, cattle manure ranked significantly higher than all the other forms. Sheep and poultry products ranked second, and considerably ahead of other organic fertilizers.

When asked about their future plans for purchasing organic fertilizers, those who participated in the survey indicated a slight, but definite, tendency to increase their purchases.

Mr. Patsula is optimistic about a market for DPW as an urban lawn fertilizer and as a soil conditioner. As far as he is concerned, the key to the use of livestock wastes as fertilizers lies in research. Considerable research needs to be done into what consumers want and need and into the technical development of waste products to eliminate odors; and to improve packaging, distribution, and application methods.

(continued)

Marketing of Dehydrated Poultry Waste

"The marketing concept", Mr. Patsula suggests, "must begin and end with the consumer to discover his needs and then to solve the problems that prevent the fulfillment of these needs".

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March 31, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

BLACKLEG IN CATTLE

Despite the fact that blackleg has been present in Alberta cattle for many years, and is easily preventable, losses from this disease still occur.

Dr. D. W. MacDonald, pathologist with the Alberta Veterinary Services' Laboratory Services Branch, strongly advises cattlemen to vaccinate all their cattle between the ages of six months and two years. It should be done just prior to the danger period which is usually in the spring and summer.

"When the past incidence of the disease has been very high, the calves should be vaccinated at three weeks of age", Dr. MacDonald says, "and it is advisable to re-vaccinate them again when they are three months old."

If vaccinating is done during an outbreak of blackleg, deaths may continue to occur for several days because it takes about 14 days for immunity to develop.

This disease is mainly found in young stock between the ages of six months and two years, but losses occasionally occur in older animals, and in calves as young as two months of age. In general, however, blackleg appears to occur most frequently in rapidly growing cattle on good feed.

(continued)

Blackleg In Cattle (cont'd)

Most cases occur in the warm months of the year, but they are occasionally encountered during the winter. The highest incidence of cases can vary between spring and fall, probably depending upon when the calves reach the susceptible age.

Dr. MacDonald stresses that the constitution of the vaccine is important. He advises using a combined bacterin containing both Clostridium chauvoei and Clostridium septicum if the organisms which cause blackleg and malignant oedema are both present in the area.

To limit soil contamination, the carcasses of animals that die from blackleg, a soil-borne disease, should be either buried deeply in the ground or burned.

There is a blackleg antiserum, but it is expensive and may interfere with the later development of a strong immunity.

What are the symptoms of blackleg? Infected animals that are observed before death have a marked lameness, which is usually accompanied by pronounced swelling in the upper part of the affected limb. Such an animal will be 'off' its feed, be depressed and have a high temperature. In the early stages of the disease, the muscle swelling is hot and painful to the touch, but it soon becomes cold and painless. Fluid and gas can be felt under the skin, which becomes discolored, dry and cracked.

Since blackleg develops rapidly, an infected animal dies quietly within 12 to 36 hours. In fact, many animals die before any symptoms are observed.

(continued)

Blackleg In Cattle (cont'd)

Because the disease is easily confused with other acute clostridal infections, lightning strokes, anthrax and diseases that cause sudden death, Dr. MacDonald strongly advises contacting a veterinarian at the first sign of trouble. He can make an accurate diagnosis, prescribe treatment and methods of preventing the disease from spreading to the rest of the herd. Unless treatment is started early, it is usually of no avail.

When blackleg is present in a group of cattle, it is very important to protect the remainder of the animals until immunity has developed. It is also advisable to move the cattle off the infected pasture. Once an outbreak of blackleg has begun, early treatment of the cases as they develop and constant surveillance of the herd is about all that can be done.

AGDEX: 811

March 31, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT PACKAGE

Every year about this time, Alberta Agriculture's Farm Management Branch distributes, free of charge, a "Financial Package" to help farmers plan their best course of action in light of their present position.

This package contains seven self-explanatory worksheets that are easy to prepare. When completed, they give a clear and concise overview of your whole operation at a glance.

* The Net Worth Statements show you the current health of your business.
* The Farm Business Performance and Financial Indicators allow you to compare the performance of your business last year with widely accepted standards of farm business efficiencey.
* The Partial Budgets enable you to compare on paper alternative changes in your farm plan.
* The Operating Plans combine the operational and financial requirements that your particular farm plan would entail.
* The Cash Flow Statements show the monthly stream of cash that will likely flow in and out of the business during the year if you adopt a particular plan.

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Financial Management Package (cont)

* The Projected Farm Income and Expense for Income Tax Planning section helps to predict any tax liability for a specific plan, and enables you to identify possible counter measures.

In addition to this "Financial Package," Alberta Agriculture's Farm Management Branch provides workshop interpretation sessions throughout the province to augment the counselling available to farmers from chartered accountants and credit agencies. The CANFARM Farm Business Analysis report computer service, which highlights the financial performance of a business, and CANFARM's Computer Planning Package are also available through the Farm Management Branch. The latter contains two financial planning programs, one crop planning program, two machinery planning programs and two livestock planning programs.

The "Financial Package" and more information on all these services are available from your district agriculturist.

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March 31, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

DEADLINE FOR PORK CONGRESS

Are you planning to enter your hogs in Alberta's first Pork Congress? If you want to compete for the many prizes being offered and to take advantage of this free advertising opportunity, you must submit your entry forms before May 1!

Scheduled to take place at the exhibition grounds in Red Deer from June 18 to 21, the congress is expected to attract entries from all four Western provinces. It will include a display and sale of record of performance breeding stock, two market hog classes, an industrial display, a seminar for hog producers, and a consumer display.

Breeding Stock Display

Breeding stock will be displayed in pens located in the exhibition area of the Kinex Building. Each pen will have a sign overhead giving the name of the owner and the official backfat probe and weight data on the pigs. All animals will be sold by auction at the end of the congress.

Market Classes

Each breeder who exhibits pigs in the display section must show at least two market hogs in the market section.

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Deadline for Pork Congress (cont'd)

However, participants in the market classes do not have to display breeding stock. They can enter two pigs in the single barrow class and five animals (not more than two gilts) in the group of five class - making a total of seven market hogs. All breeds and cross-breeds are eligible for these classes. Following the judging, the pigs will be slaughtered, the carcasses appraised and a comparison made between the live and carcass scores. Over $1,000 in prize money will be awarded in this section of the congress, and the prize-winning carcasses will be sold by public auction.

Industrial Display

A number of industrial firms will be displaying hog equipment, supplies and feeds throughout the congress.

Seminar

Alberta and out-of-province swine specialists will discuss the following topics: market outlook; export contracting and export marketing; swine improvement programs; improving swine reproductive ability; and preventing and treating baby pig scours. A guest speaker, Dr. Z. Gajic, from Purdue University, Indiana, will outline the techniques of efficiently managing a large-scale swine operation.

(continued)

Deadline for Pork Congress (cont'd)

Consumer Display

This section will feature pork cooking demonstrations and gourmet cooking by chefs from the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology. Free pork recipes and consumer information will be given to anybody who wants them. There will also be films and a microwave oven demonstration by Calgary Power Ltd.

You can obtain more details on any section of the congress from Fred Schuld, congress co-ordinator and Alberta Agriculture's swine specialist at Red Deer, 4747 Ross Street, Red Deer, Alberta (Phone 346-5581).

Entry forms for the swine display and market hog classes are available from Tom Jacobs, secretary, Alberta Swine Breeders' Association, Box 86, Tofield, Alberta (Phone 662-3222).

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March 31, 1975

AGRI NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CRITICAL TIME FOR OVERWINTERING BEE COLONIES

Spring is a critical time for bee colonies that have been carried through the winter. Generally, food supplies are getting low and many colonies are often near starvation.

What should one do? Alberta Agriculture's supervisor of Apiculture, Dr. Ulf Soehngen, suggests the following procedure.

Gently lift the hive covers on a warm day when some of the bees are flying. If the bees in the hive are quietly humming and are low between the frames (you can hardly see the outline of the cluster) and if you see sealed honey cells above the bees on the combs, the hive probably requires no further attention.

On the other hand, if the bee clusters are immediately below the hive cover, gently remove the frames closest to the cluster (on each side) and then the ones next to them towards the center of the cluster (again on each side). If you remove them gently, only a few bees will detach themselves and be lost. If the frames are empty, and if you have some extra frames containing honey, you should substitute the frames on either side of the cluster with full ones. However, before putting them in, it is a good idea to remove the caps on the honey cells, and, when possible, to warm the honey to room temperature.

(continued)

Critical Time For Overwintering Bee Colonies (cont'd)

If you do not have any extra frames of honey, gently replace the empty frames in the hive. Then prepare a 50 per cent sugar solution which you can either put in a frame feeder or in an air-tight can. Incidentally, the bees often take the syrup more readily if it has been warmed. If you use the air-tight can for a feeder, you should cut a hole in the inner cover of the hive directly over the bee cluster, and put the can upside down over the hole after you have punched five to 10 small holes in the lid. Now put a bit of insulation around the can, an extra super around it and a lid on top of the super.

When a bee colony needs additional food, but not immediately, Dr. Soehngen says he often puts dry sugar on the inner cover of the hive and wets it slightly to start the bees working.

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AGDEX: 846

March 31, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

AGRI-PROM ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA ANNUAL MEETING

In its first year of operation, the Agri-Prom Association of Alberta was "very successful" in increasing consumer awareness and the use of Alberta-produced foods. This was the general consensus of opinion among the 60 representatives from industry and government who attended the association's first annual meeting in Edmonton.

Agri-Prom was formed a year ago by members of Alberta's food industry to promote foods produced in the province. It is a non-profit organization financed by industry and Alberta Agriculture.

Retiring Agri-Prom President Walter Makowecki told the meeting that several Agri-Prom members have reported increased sales as a result of their participation during the past year in displays at major exhibitions, shopping centers and retail stores. Another important achievement was the production of a promotional film showing Agri-Prom activities.

Agri-Prom projects for 1975-76 will include expanded year-round promotions in retail stores throughout Alberta. The group will also sponsor displays at exhibitions including Homexpo and the Stampede in Calgary, and Klondike Days in Edmonton.

(continued)

Agri-Prom Association of Alberta Annual Meeting (cont'd)

While recruitment of new members has not yet been completed, Agri-Prom organizers forecast an increase of at least 20 per cent over last year. All food producers groups, processors and retailers in Alberta are eligible to join Agri-Prom.

Jim Bateman, owner of Guiseppi's Pizza Ltd. was elected Agri-Prom president for 1975-76.

Other officers elected to Agri-Prom's board of directors are:

Vice President	Ken Taylor (Canada Packers)
Secretary-Treasurer	Walter Makowecki (Heritage Foods)
Directors	Don Thomas (Woodward Stores)
	Gay Thomson (Alberta Agriculture)
	Hank Briede (Alberta Agriculture)
	Jim Downey (Burns Foods)
	Russ Marfleet (Alberta Poultry Council)
	Don Rogers (Andres Wines)

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April 7, 1975

AGRI NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AGDEX: 440/865

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

HOG PRICE PROSPECTS

Hog prices are more likely to stay above $50 a hundredweight than to stay below this figure during the next few months, says Jim Dawson, marketing economist with Alberta Agriculture. In fact, he expects Western Canadian hog prices to get back to the mid $50-range by mid-summer.

Although the availability of low-priced beef will hold the line on hog prices for the time being, this beef will become less of a factor in the future because the supply of finished beef is expected to become more scarce in the second quarter of this year.

Mr. Dawson predicts that pork will be in short supply in the last half of this year and expects prices to be stronger. He says "Prices in the high $50-range are a distinct possibility". These prices will be related to the beef supply situation which is expected to be made up of a large volume of under-finished carcasses.

Even though Canadian hog slaughter was down 12 per cent (1.5 million head) during the first two months of this year, mainly because of a 25 per cent decrease in the West, prices were under pressure towards the end of February and in March. Mr. Dawson says that there are a number of partial reasons for this situation.

(continued)

RELEASED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH ALBERTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Hog Price Prospects (cont'd)

They are: 1) The hog volume in Eastern Canada is still about equal to that of 1974, and that market is not as short of pork as the West. 2) American production has not dropped enough to create upward pressure on prices yet. 3) A large volume of U. S. pork is being imported. 4) The U. S. import quota has reduced the usual volume of ham and belly exports. 5) A plentiful supply of low priced beef is replacing the pork consumed in Canada and the United States. 6) A slow economy in both countries is affecting pork consumption.

Canadian Supply Prospects

The Canadian Pig Survey, published on January 1, points to a much larger reduction in hog production this year than was forecast in the October 1974 survey. On January 1, there were 5.8 million head, representing a 16 per cent drop from January 1974. Sows and gilts kept for breeding were down 17 per cent in Canada; down 26 per cent in Western Canada, and down 10 per cent in Eastern Canada.

The number of pigs under three months of age in Canada at the time was down 18 per cent. In the West it was down 25 per cent, and in the East it was down 12 per cent. This age group serves as an indicator for market volumes in the second quarter of 1975.

(continued)

Hog Price Prospects (cont'd)

Compared with the same period in 1974, the January to July farrowing intentions are down 17 per cent for Canada; down 26 per cent in the West; and down 9 per cent in the East.

U. S. Supply Prospects

The U. S. hog survey for March reflects about the same pattern as that in Canada. The total number of hogs is down 17 per cent from the same period a year ago, and the number of animals kept for breeding is down 20 per cent. The number of hogs in the heavier weight categories indicates an immediate decline in marketings. The February "Livestock and Meat Situation" indicates that U. S. hog slaughter will be down three to six per cent in the first quarter of this year, and down 10 per cent in the second quarter. Lighter carcass weights and lower slaughter volumes are expected to reduce the second quarter supply of pork by 14 to 16 per cent compared with the same period in 1974.

U. S. farrowings for December through May are expected to be down by 21 per cent, which could make this pig crop the smallest since 1935. The reduction is expected to set the pattern for marketings for the last half of this year.

Mr. Dawson expects the North American pork supply as a whole to be down 15 per cent or more in the last half of 1975.

(continued)

Hog Price Prospects (cont'd)

He says it is unlikely that there will be any rise in the production trend until the early summer of 1976, and that a rise then will depend upon barley and hog prices in the fall of this year.

For more detailed Quarterly Market Reviews write to:

The Market Analysis Branch
Alberta Agriculture
Agriculture Building
9718 - 107 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2C8

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AGDEX: 100/862

April 7, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

INSTABILITY IN THE INTERNATIONAL GRAIN AND OILSEED MARKETS

by Peter Perkins
Marketing Analysis Branch
Alberta Agriculture

In the last three months grain and oilseed prices have tumbled some 30 to 50 per cent, and against previously anticipated trends. There is now little doubt that these markets are no longer determining their own destiny, but are being strongly influenced by deteriorating conditions in the general world economy.

As the 1974/75 marketing year progresses into its third quarter, two significant factors have come into play that have, and will likely continue to have a depressing influence on price levels. Global demand for agricultural products has been weakened by recessionary forces in most economies, reducing both business and consumer confidence, and thus leading to revised purchasing patterns that now indicate a lower level of world grains and oilseeds consumption than previously anticipated. At the same time prospects for a significant increase in world production from 1975 harvests are good. The expectation of a substantially increased supply meeting a weakened demand in the coming crop year continues to force prices lower.

(continued)

RELEASED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH ALBERTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Instability In The International Grain and Oilseed Markets (cont'd)

Relative to historical levels, the stocks of grains and oilseeds are significantly lower than generally regarded as satisfactory, and at the close of the current crop year will be around the lowest levels for 20 years. The tightness of supply is, however, not only a function of the level of available stocks, but is also related to demand, and if demand weakens, then irrespective of the absolute level of stocks, the relative supply situation softens. This is clearly what has developed in the past few months. One must therefore examine influences outside the agricultural sector to find the reasons for current price declines, and to provide some light as to likely future developments.

The most significant development in recent months has been the realization by many governments, particularly that of the United States, that inflation is no longer the number one economic problem. It is recession, reflected in rapidly increasing unemployment and declinging national production that is now the source of growing economic woes. The leading economies of the world are experiencing severe unemployment problems that show no immediate signs of improvement. Increasing unemployment, particularly in an inflationary period, will eventually have an impact on the market for farm commodities as consumer confidence wanes and retail spending declines.

(continued)

Uncertainty with respect to future economic developments will tend to reduce the effective demand for farm commodities both domestically and internationally as consumers readjust spending patterns and business firms allow inventories to be depleted.

The decline in demand for food on an international scale seems a most unlikely occurrance at a time when great concern is being expressed for the obvious plight of the many "have-not" nations of the world and their under-fed populous. However, as world economic conditions deteriorate so also will the lot of these less priveleged nations. Developed economies are likely to concern themselves more with their own domestic hardships than to allocate more resources to aid programs for the less developed nations of the world. For political reasons it is not likely that such adjustments will be significant, and the recent $600 million boost in American funding indicates that food aid will continue. Such programs undoubtedly strengthen the international demand for farm commodities, particularly wheat, but it is possible that the impetus in this direction will slaken. Since food aid seems to be more of a device for regulating stocks, it is unlikely that it will permanently form a sizable element of demand in the current economic climate.

(continued)

Instability In The International Grain and Oilseed Markets (cont'd)

In the longer term, however, hope is expressed that recycled "petro dollars" originating from OPEC nations will find their way into this field, as world leaders continue to wrestle with plans for developing stockpiles of food commodities as insurance against crop failure.

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April 7, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

ALBERTA RABIES VECTOR CONTROL SITUATION

Dr. H. N. Vance, director of the Alberta Veterinary Services Division and chairman of the Alberta Rabies Control Committee, reports that 861 skunks were removed last year from the 18-mile wide buffer zone, established west of the Alberta-Saskatchewan border in 1970 to reduce the spread of rabies into this province.

Within that 12-month period approximately 92 per cent of the buffer zone was covered by provincial and local pest control specialists. The most intensive patrolling took place close to the Saskatchewan border. It is estimated that 60 to 65 per cent of the skunks in the buffer zone were eliminated.

According to Dr. Vance a research program was carried out during the last four years in conjunction with the control program to evaluate the effectiveness of the latter. Research results showed that there were more than twice as many skunks and four and a half times as many rabid skunks on the Saskatchewan side of the buffer zone as there were in a similar area within the buffer zone itself.

Dr. Vance also reports that the federal Health of Animals Laboratory in Lethbridge confirmed three cases of rabid skunks west of the buffer zone last year. Two were found at Seven Persons and one at Burdett. Skunk depopulation was carried out within a three-mile radius of each site by a team of agricultural, wildlife and municipal officials.

(continued)

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Alberta Rabies Vector Control Situation (cont'd)

In 1974 a total of 13 rabid bats were discovered at various points throughout the province. However, no bat colonies were found in the vicinity of any of the rabid bats.

Following is a summary of positive rabies cases found in Alberta over the last four years. Analysis was done by the Health of Animals Diagnostic Laboratory, CDA, Lethbridge.

Year	Total Positives	Domestic Animals	Wildlife Animals			Total Specimans Submitted for Analysis
			Skunks	Coyotes	Bats	
1971	21	9	2	7	3	1,179
1972	12	1	3	-	8	767
1973	31	3	7**	3	18	1,180
1974	21	1	7***	-	13	Data not available
TOTALS	85	14	19	10	42	

** All but four located within depopulation buffer zone.

*** All but three located within depopulation buffer zone.

AGDEX: 120/10

April 7, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI-NEWS

FORAGE CONSERVATION

By: Heinz Schultz,
Alberta Agriculture's Plant Industry Division

Alberta cattlemen are in trouble! Cow-calf operators and feeders are selling below production costs.

What are the causes? They are numerous, but the main ones are that world beef production has exceeded demand and high-priced grain cannot be fed to cattle.

During the years of 'cheap' grain, we developed techniques which almost turned a ruminant into a monogastric animal. In other words, we fed a hog ration to a forage converter! As Frank Jacobs, former editor of the "Cattleman" so aptly put it:" Cattle feeding evolved into a way of marketing U. S. corn and Canadian barley."

With the drop in world grain supplies and a greatly decreased dollar value, other monogastrics--namely people--bought our cattle feed. What now? The solution to the problem appears simple--feed roughage to forage converters which is the feed they were created for. Feed more roughage and forget about grain.

Agricultural publications offer recipes galore on how to fatten cattle on a high roughage ration. However, there remains one problem! We in Alberta are short of roughage.

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FORAGE CONSERVATION (continued)

Alberta Agriculture's forage crops specialist, Larry Gareau, took an inventory of forage supplies in this province. The estimated carryover of one million tons by this spring is only a drop in the bucket. The dry weather last fall, the light snow cover and the breaking of hayland for grain have all aggravated an already serious situation. Even if forage growing conditions are favorable this season, Alberta cattlemen may not be able to maintain their present breeding stock population.

Again to quote Frank Jacobs, "Grain feeding increased beef production by 75 per cent." But if all cattlemen decide to run calves as yearlings, cow herds will have to be cut by 30 per cent, and perhaps even by 50 per cent! If we feed those yearlings close to current market weights on a 'high roughage' ration, how much further will we have to reduce cow herds?

If we intend to replace grain by hay, we must replace one pound of grain by four to six pounds of hay, depending on the quality of the forage.

Apart from drastically reducing breeding herds, what alternatives do we have? To seed down crop land to perennial forage? Who is going to do that at present grain prices? An increase in cereal pastures and cereal silage is also governed by grain prices. In Alberta greater use of corn silage is limited to the corn belt in the southern part of the province.

(continued)

FORAGE CONSERVATION (cont'd)

Finding ways of improving production from our present forage stands is one of the avenues that is wide open for exploration. At the present time both the energy and protein levels of forage crops vary widely from one year to the next. This variation is mainly influenced by:

* weather
* soil fertility
* conservation methods
* harvesting methods
* harvesting systems
* storage facilities
* feeding mamagement

Mr. Gareau estimates that the loss of nutrients when conventional haying and feeding methods are used may run as high as 50 per cent. And under adverse weather conditions some 'hay' may grade No. 1 bedding! Tower drying, dehydration and preserving forage as silage are some of the ways that the effects of adverse weather can be overcome.

Many soils in this province respond to fertilizers. In addition to producing a greater quantity of forage they also produce a higher quality product which, in turn, produces higher meat production per pound of forage.

(continued)

FORAGE CONSERVATION (cont'd)

Alberta Agriculture's Forage Crop Team, headed by Mr. Gareau, will be publishing fact sheets on silage shortly. The team will be drawing on the experience of research that has been carried out on a world-wide basis as well as on the experience of silage producers in Alberta.

Why the team approach? Because very little is known about forages--there are more glamourous fields of agriculture to explore! Forage has been one of the 'cinderellas'. We know that there is no silage expert - no one individual knows enough about this subject to become an expert!

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AGDEX: 871

April 7, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI-NEWS

TWO MORE FARM LABOR POOLS FOR ALBERTA

Vegreville and Drumheller will both have Canadian farm labor pools this spring, bringing the number that have been established in Alberta in the last year to eight. The others are located in Brooks, Calgary, Red Deer, Wetaskiwin, Camrose and Edmonton.

The federal government, with assistance from Alberta Agriculture, has already organized local agricultural manpower boards at Vegreville and Drumheller. These boards act in an advisory capacity to the Canadian farm labor pool manager in the local area. Made up of representatives from the local community, farm organizations, labor groups, the federal-provincial Agricultural Manpower Committee and the manager of the nearest Canadian manpower centre, they establish operational guide lines for the pools.

Canadian farm labor pools, which will total 54 across Canada this year, were started in 1974 to help alleviate shortages of agricultural workers by organizing the farm labor market, by attracting more people to agricultural work and by encouraging better wages, housing and working conditions. They help to match the labor supply with labor demand, and, in some cases, provide up to four days of orientation training for workers being placed in unfamiliar jobs.

(continued)

RELEASED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH ALBERTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Two More Farm Labor Pools For Alberta (cont'd)

In addition to recruiting employees for farmers, the pools help them with paper work relating to the payroll, bookkeeping, and mandatory deductions. They also locate jobs for people seeking farm employment and maintain minimum standard for wages, accommodation and working conditions. The pools work closely with the nearest Canadian manpower centre which refers agricultural labor enquiries to the pools and helps arrange transportation of workers within and between provinces when local labor shortages develop.

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April 7, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

RAPE RESIDUE MAY EFFECT SUBSEQUENT CROPS

Damage to cereal crops that are planted on land that produced a heavy rape crop the previous year can be minimized by planting one of the more resistant varieties. However, there are no oilseed crop varities that are resistant to this problem.

According to Alberta Agriculture's plant pathology specialist, Dr. J. Horricks, the toxin in the residue of rape crops can affect the vigour of both types of crops, stunt their growth, delay their maturity and reduce their yields. However, a cereal or an oilseed crop planted on the same land two years after the rape crop does not seem to be adversely affected, even though the toxin is fairly stable in the soil.

Since the damage from the toxin is mainly confined to the areas under the windrows left by the combine, the problem can be almost completely overcome by spreading the crop residue evenly over the field at harvest time.

Following is a list of the more resistant cereal crop varities.

(continued)

RELEASED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH ALBERTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rape Residue May Effect Subsequent Crops (cont'd)

Fairly Resistant Crop Varieties

(listed in decreasing order of resistance
both by crop and by variety)

Fall rye -- Petkus, Sangaste, Cougar, Frontier.

Malting barley -- Olli, Gateway 13, Paragon,
Bonanza, Conquest.

Feed barley -- Palliser, Galt, Jubilee.

Oats -- Glen, Harmon, Rodney.

Winter wheat -- Sundance, Yogo, Kharkov 22MC.

Triticale -- Rosner.

Spring wheat -- Saunders, Neepawa, Park.

Spring rye -- Prolific.

Spring wheat -- Chinook, Cypress, Thatcher, Stewart 63.

Oats -- Eagle, Sioux.

*Utility wheat.

*Soft white wheat.

*Durum wheat.

*Flax.

*Mustard.

*Rape.

*Very susceptible.

AGDEX: 120/23

April 7, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

ORDER INOCULANT REQUIREMENTS IN ADVANCE

Alberta Agriculture's field crops specialist, Larry Gareau, urges farmers who will need legume inoculants this spring to order their requirements from their seed dealer at least two weeks before they intend to plant the crop.

Those who will need to order inoculants include farmers who will be planting alfalfa, any of the clovers, peas, beans or other legumes from their own seed or from seed purchased from a neighbor.

Mr. Gareau points out that the seed trade normally carries only enough inoculants for the seed they expect to sell, and that it takes the manufacturers time to prepare, multiply and package the inoculum. Because inoculants contain live organisms, they are very perishable and can be stored for only a limited length of time. However, this limited time extends over a period of months so there is no problem for a farmer to store an inoculant until he is ready to treat his seed, providing he does not break the seal on the package.

It is important to remember that the presence of the right rhyzobium bacteria on the seed or in the soil is the only guarantee a farmer has that his legume will fix the atmospheric nitrogen which enables the plants to produce a profitable crop even when the soil is deficient in nitrogen.

(continued)

RELEASED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH ALBERTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Order Inoculant Requirements In Advance (cont'd)

"Be sure", says Mr. Gareau, "to follow the manufacturer's directions carefully when inoculating legume seed and to observe the precautions covering the period between when the seed is treated and when it is sown. The inoculant organism is easily killed if exposed to chemicals or to sunlight".

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April 7, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

WEED CONTROL '75

Have you thought about entering the seedling identification contest at Weed Control '75? You will win a valuable prize if you identify the highest number of weed seedlings growing in a flat.

Weed Control '75 is a fair that will be taking place at the Kinex Building in the Red Deer Exhibition Grounds from 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on April 17!

Alberta Agriculture will be displaying dried weed mounts, an irrigation pump that injects herbicides into irrigation water, special farmstead weed control implements, a shelterbelt model and live tree specimens.

The federal research station at Lacombe grew the weed seedlings that will be used in the weed identification contest, and Olds College is contributing frozen weed specimens. Farm organizations and the grain companies will have a large display of their many products and services.

Herbicide manufacturers and dealers will have a full range of herbicides at the fair, while machinery and equipment manufacturers and distributers will be displaying all makes of sprayers and granular applicators.

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RELEASED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH ALBERTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Weed Control '75 (cont'd)

In fact, this will probably be the first time that Alberta farmers have had a chance to see and compare all herbicides and application equipment under one roof. Anybody can place an order for the goods and services that are shown at the fair.

In addition to all this, there will be free ticket draws for such prizes as herbicides, hand-sprayers, nozzle tips and so on.

Plan to attend Weed Control '75 on April 17 and enjoy the festivities!

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April 7, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

DON'T GIVE GROUND TO WEEDS

Participants in the Weed Control Course, offered earlier this year by Alberta Agriculture to farmers in the central part of the province, continue to ask questions about weeds and weed control. Alberta Agriculture's weed control specialist, Keith Price, selected the following questions of general interest and provided answers.

Question: When Avadex BW and anhydrous ammonia are applied to the same field, what special precautions must be taken? Will the incorporation of the Avadex BW cause any loss of ammonia?

Answer: There have been no problems when Avadex BW has been used with ammonia. They may be applied close together, and it does not matter which is applied first. Many people feel that nitrogen stimulates wild oat germination, and there is some scientific evidence to support this theory. If it is true, using anyhydrous ammonia and Avadex BW could result in more wild oats germinating and being eliminated in one treatment.

Once the anhydrous ammonia has been absorbed by the soil particles, no amount of tillage will cause it to be lost to the atmosphere.

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RELEASED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH ALBERTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Don't Give Ground to Weeds (cont'd)

Question: Is there any advantage to mixing Treflan and Avadex BW? How would you apply this mixture?

Answer: Theoretically, mixing these two chemicals is a good idea, but in reality it is not practical. There is no need to use the two herbicides in rape crops, and the Treflan could damage cereal crops. There are some promising chemical mixtures now being studied, but they will not be available until they have been proven and registered.

Question: Is it true that weeds can develop resistance to a particular herbicide over the years?

Answer: Yes. Documented evidence shows that some weed strains are more resistant to certain herbicides than other strains of the same weed. Since these strains may survive herbicide applications, specific weeds can build up a population that has greater resistance to a particular chemical than was originally the case with that species.

Question: In the publication "Weed Control in Cereal and Oilseed Crops - 1974" the cost of using TCA is quoted at 50¢ to $1.50 per acre. Surely it would cost more than this to control quack grass. The recommended rate of application for quack grass control is 40 to 60 pounds per acre.

(continued)

Don't Give Ground to Weeds (cont'd)

Answer: Yes. It costs between 50¢ and $1.50 per acre to control green foxtail in barley and flax with TCA. The recommended rate for this purpose is from one to four pounds per acre. Consequently, at a rate of from 40 to 60 pounds per acre, the cost would be much higher. However, these high rates can be used only on a small area, and not in any crop, because they cause temporary soil sterility.

If you have any questions on weed control problems that you would like answered, send them to Arnold Stearman, Weed Control Branch, Alberta Agriculture, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

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AGRI NEWS

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RELEASED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH ALBERTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

AGRI NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A VETERINARY CLINIC PLAN



Athabasca's new veterinary clinic which was designed by Alberta Agriculture.

Are you thinking of building a veterinary clinic? Did you know that you can get a free plan from Alberta Agriculture.

The plan was drawn up in response to a request from a group of farmers in the Athabasca area who wanted a clinic that would attract a resident veterinarian to their region. The building has now been taken over by Dr. Matt Schoonderwoerd.

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RELEASED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH ALBERTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

A Veterinary Clinic Plan (cont'd)

Designed for a two man operation, the clinic covers 3,000 square feet and cost approximately $80,000 to build. It is constructed of concrete blocks and divided into four sections: a small animal section, a large animal surgery room, a large animal holding area and a calf isolation room. All these sections can be closed off from one another and have separately controlled heating and ventilating systems.

Another special feature of the clinic is that the calf isolation room is accessible only from the outside of the building. However, the animals can be viewed from inside through sealed glass windows.

Still another feature is that all the sinks are served by a circulating hot water system which provides instant hot water at each location. The taps are operated by foot control valves.

Further information on this plan and the plan itself can be obtained from the Engineering and Home Design Branch, Alberta Agriculture, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton.

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April 14, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

ALBERTA HAS A NEW MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

Marvin E. Moore, MLA for Smoky River, is Alberta's new Minister of Agriculture.

He has a farm near Debolt, 30 miles east of Grande Prairie, where he grows cereal and forage seed and commercial grain. Since his first term as MLA in 1971, Mr. Moore has served as co-chairman of the Minister's Task Force on Agriculture.

In 1973 the new minister served on the Legislative committee on crop and hail insurance that toured the province to ascertain farmers' opinions on the provincial crop insurance program. He has also served as vice-chairman of the Alberta Grain Commission and was a member of the Alberta Meat Products Mission that went to Japan last year. In addition, he was a member of the task force on decentralizing government operations.

Mr. Moore was born at Grande Prairie in 1938 where his father, Charlie Moore, farmed. His father was named a Master Farmer in 1964. Although Mr. Moore has a good background in hog production and feeder cattle operations, acquired from the family farm, he does not raise livestock on his own farm.

In 1959 he married Frances Bodeker of Valleyview, and they have three children, Kerry, Lonny and Bernice.

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RELEASED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH ALBERTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

April 14, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

NEW DEPUTY MINISTER FOR ALBERTA

Alberta's new Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. Marvin Moore, has announced the appointment of Dr. J. G. O'Donoghue to the position of Deputy Minister of Agriculture.

Formerly Assistant Deputy Minister of Production, Dr. O'Donoghue replaces Dr. Glen Purnell, who has been made responsible for overall economic development strategy, reporting directly to the Deputy Premier.

Dr. O'Donoghue was born in Stratford, Ontario, and attended the Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph, where he received his D.V.M. in 1942.

He came to Alberta with the federal Health of Animals Branch in 1946 after having served with the Canadian Army overseas. In 1948 he joined the Alberta Veterinary Services Division where he was involved in laboratory work, field investigations and in developing livestock disease control programs. He lectured in veterinary sciences at the University of Alberta for 17 years.

Dr. O'Donoghue became Director of the Veterinary Services Division in 1965. Seven years later he was appointed Assistant Deputy Minister of Production.

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April 14, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

RESULTS OF POTATO BOARD PLEBISCITE

Alberta potato growers have voted against establishing a marketing board.

C. H. Ferries, chairman of the Agricultural Products Marketing Council, reports that of the 92 eligible producers entitled to vote, only 40 producers, or 43.5 per cent, voted in favour of the plan to establish a potato marketing board. A simple majority of those who had registered to vote would have had to be in favour for the plan to have been implemented.

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AGDEX: 855

April 14, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

RISING AGRICULTURAL INPUT COSTS

An agricultural Input Monitoring System, established by Unifarm Alberta Agriculture in June 1974, shows a wide variation during the last nine months in the price of agricultural input costs and availability of products throughout the province.

Large price increases were noted for all farm machinery and power vehicles. The following average price increases were reported for the nine-month period: tractors 26 per cent, combines 27 per cent, cultivators 28 per cent, balers 21 per cent, double discs 25 per cent and half-ton trucks 16 per cent. These increases represent an average price rise of approximately $550 for a cultivator to $3,200 for a tractor and $5,800 for a combine. Although the supply of machinery remained fairly poor in March, some improvements in availability were reported.

The cost of machinery maintenance, repairs and operation has also increased. The prices reported for tires, storage batteries and V-belts in March 1975 were approximately 19 per cent, 28 per cent and 16 per cent higher than in June 1974. The price of purple gasoline, diesel and propane was approximately 3 per cent higher than in June, while the price of antifreeze was about 32 per cent higher.

(continued)

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Rising Agricultural Input Costs (cont'd)

Antifreeze prices were the highest in the fall of 1974, when they were approximately 40 per cent higher than during the summer of 1974. Mechanical labor costs (shop charge including labor) increased by about 19 per cent for the nine-month period. The price of baler twine reported in March 1975 was approximately 36 per cent higher than in June 1974, representing one of the largest price increases noted. The supply of the above mentioned products and services remained good to excellent except for antifreeze and baler twine where the supply was fair to good in March 1975.

The prices reported for building, fencing and construction materials varied throughout the province. The prices reported for lumber in March 1975 were approximately 19 per cent lower than in June 1974, while the prices reported for plywood sheathing were approximately 10 per cent lower. The supply remained very good for lumber and sheathing. Price increases of approximately 20 per cent were reported for cement for the nine-month period with supply fairly good in March 1975, and much improved since the fall of 1974 when it was poor. The March 1975 prices of re-inforcing rods were similar to those of June 1974. However, highest prices were noted in the late fall of 1974 when they were approximately 5 per cent higher than in June 1974.

(continued)

Rising Agricultural Input Costs (cont'd)

Large price increases of approximately 32 per cent were reported for plastic pipe for the nine-month period. The supply of re-inforcing rods and plastic pipe ramained fairly good. Barbed wire prices were about 8 per cent higher than in June 1974, with the supply fair to good in March 1975; and much improved since the summer of 1974, when it was fair to poor.

Variations were noted for price and availability of livestock feeds and supplies. Prices for prepared feeds fluctuated throughout the nine-month period with highest prices reported in late 1974. March 1975 prices for calf starter, dairy supplement, hog concentrate and poultry growing concentrate were higher by approximately 6 per cent, 9 per cent, 1 per cent and 3 per cent respectively than they were in June 1974, even though they had dropped from the higher late 1974 levels. Large price increases were noted for cattle mineral with the average price in March 1975 approximately 18 per cent higher than in June 1974. The price of feed barley in March 1975 was approximately equal to the price in June 1974. However, prices reported in the fall of 1974 were approximately 20 per cent higher than in June 1974. Hay prices were 5 to 10 per cent lower in March 1975 than in June 1974.

(continued)

Rising Agricultural Input Costs (cont'd)

The March 1975 prices for penicillin, vitamins A, D, and E and tetracycline were 10 to 15 per cent higher than in June 1974. The availability of all the above named livestock feeds and supplies was good in March 1975, with slight variations throughout the nine-month period.

Most prices for crop production supplies were much higher in March 1975 than in June 1974. Fertilizer prices in March 1975 were 25 to 50 per cent higher than in June 1974, with phosphorus fertilizer showing larger increases than nitrogen fertilizer. The supply of fertilizer in March 1975 was fair to poor. The March 1975 prices of 2,4-D and Avadex BW were 15 to 18 per cent higher than in June 1974. The availability of 2,4-D in March 1975 was fair, while that of Avadex BW was fair to poor. Seed prices reported in March 1975 were higher than in June 1974 - seed wheat was approximately 9 per cent higher and and seed barley was approximately 33 per cent higher. The supply of seed wheat and barley remained fair to good.

Paul Barlott, systems engineer with Alberta Agriculture, and Elmer Allen, research economist within Unifarm, will be pleased to discuss specific inquiries which farmers may have regarding the price and availability of products monitored throughout the province.

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April 14, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

FIELD BEAN MARKET GROWING

The chairman of the Alberta Pulses Committee, Larry Gareau of Alberta Agriculture, reports a growing world market for field beans.

Last year 28 growers in southern Alberta's irrigated area grew 2,400 acres of beans compared with the 1973 total of 800 acres. This year the acreage is expected to be in the neighborhood of 5,000 acres, which would meet the storage capacity of the new bean processing plant at Bow Island. Known as the Alberta Bean Growers Ltd., this plant is expected to operate on a 12-month basis this year.

The general-manager, Ed White, says bean sales to Iraq and Cuba are pending, and that he has received requests for information on his dried beans from Israel and Saudi Arabia. Last year beans grown and processed in southern Alberta found ready markets in the Philippines, Europe and the United Kingdom.

A white bean, called Great Northern, was the most popular of the five types grown in Alberta last year. The other types were Pinto, Pink, Navy and Red. Canada Agriculture's research station at Lethbridge is carrying out research into the production of field beans and into the development of new varieties.

(continued)

RELEASED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH ALBERTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Field Bean Market Growing (cont'd)

In addition to being a lucrative crop, field beans build up the nitrogen level of the soil.

According to Mr. Gareau, the average yield obtained by bean growers in Alberta last year was 1,650 pounds per acre. Depending on the quality of the beans, they received near-record prices of from $20 to $31 a hundredweight.

At the present time Ontario is the main bean production area in Canada, while Idaho and Michigan are the main centers in the United States.

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April 14, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

CHEAP SEED IS NOT A BARGAIN

As the price of seed increases, many farmers are wondering whether these increases are really worth paying.

Walter Pierson, district agriculturist for the county of Warner, points out that too often bargain prices are associated with lower quality products, and that quality in seed relates to considerations other than just its ability to germinate. The variety of hybrid, for example, may not be ideal for a particular location, or some seed lots may contain significant quantities of other seed or off-types. Also, new weeds may be introduced into an area with bargain seed.

"A farmer", says Mr. Pierson, "needs to consider all the costs, in addition to seed, that will go into producing a crop. He should write these down on paper and add them up so that he knows what he will be risking if he cuts corners in buying seed. Production of a crop depends first on the potential of the seed which is planted."

Almost invariably, high quality, strong, clean seed of the best variety will produce a greater yield than will inferior quality seed. To economically justify the greater outlay for purchasing the better seed requires only that the income from the yield increase pay the additional cost of the seed. In years of adverse weather at planting time, better seed is more likely to withstand these less than ideal conditions and still produce a vigorous stand.

(continued)

Cheap Seed Is Not A Bargain (cont'd)

Thus, when the best seed available is planted, the risk of losing a stand and having to replant it is reduced.

"The yield increase necessary to pay the difference in seed cost is quite small," says Mr. Pierson. "At the current prices of farm products, a one or two per cent increase in yield will justify buying seed at prices varying from 50 to 100 per cent higher than those of last year. Thus, only a 10 lb. increase per acre will justify paying 50 per cent more for alfalfa seed."

Selection of the proper variety or hybrid is also important in getting the best yield, and genetic purity can best be assured by purchasing certified seed from an established reputable source. Remember, the best seed available is usually the cheapest in the long run!

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

CORN PRODUCTION IN SOUTHERN ALBERTA

The production of corn for silage can be a profitable operation in southern Alberta and could help to alleviate an anticipated forage shortage this year, says Larry Gareau, Alberta Agriculture's forage crops specialist.

Probably the most important thing about growing corn for silage is to make sure that it has reached the right stage of maturity when it is harvested. This is the hard dough stage. Research has shown that dry matter yield increases by approximately 50 per cent between the immature milk stage and the hard dough stage. When corn silage is harvested at the optimum stage of maturity its digestible energy exceeds that of all other stored forages.

The best way to reduce the risk of frost before a corn crop is ready to harvest is to plant your crop early and to plant an early hybrid. Many growers in southern Albert are now planting corn as early as April 20. Although corn seed can remain viable in the ground for a month or more under cold weather conditions, growers who put this crop in early usually plant their seed only 1 1/2" to 2" deep. In this way they take advantage of the warmth near the soil surface.

(continued)

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Corn Production in Southern Alberta (cont'd)

A spring frost is always a danger, but frost in the fall before the crop has matured is more of a hazard. Even though a frost in the spring may completely kill the top growth of the corn seedlings, they will grow new leaves in four or five days as long as their growing point has not been affected.

Hybrids that are suitable for corn production in the southern part of this province are recommended by the Alberta Corn Committee after they have been performance tested at a number of locations. The committee tests both grain and silage hybrids, and publishes the results of their trials each year in "Guide to Corn Production in Alberta". It is available from district agriculturists and from Alberta Agriculture's regional Plant Industry supervisor in Lethbridge.

More information on grain and silage hybrids and seed selection as well as information on fertilizers, weed control, pests, diseases, irrigation, etc. is contained in the publication "Corn Production in Southern Alberta". "Corn Production in Southern Alberta" can be obtained from district agriculturists and from the Publications Office, Alberta Agriculture, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton.

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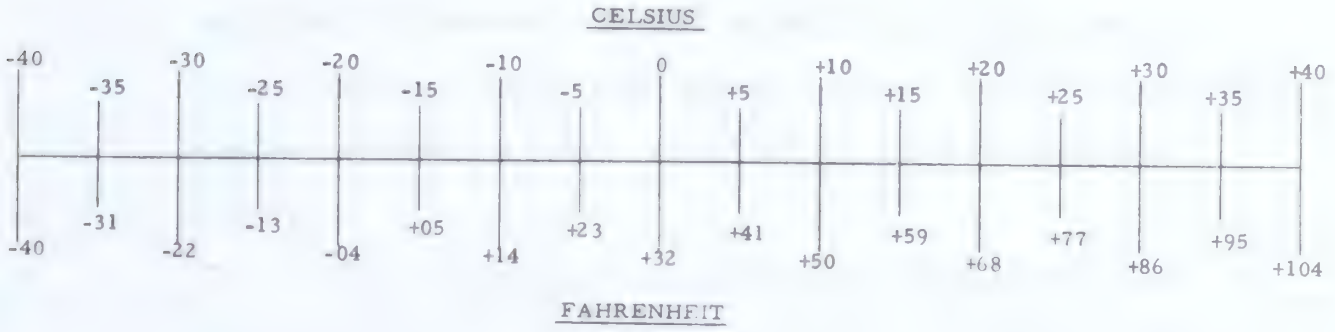
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

METRIC TEMPERATURE CONVERSION

Are you having trouble getting a meaningful picture of the weather when it is given in Celsius degrees instead of Fahrenheit degrees?

The following chart submitted by a member of Alberta Agriculture's Engineering Branch may help you with this problem.



Incidently, the Celsius and Centigrade scales are the same. Anders Celsius (1701-44), a Swedish astronomer, invented the Centigrade scale for measuring temperatures. Hence, the alternative name for Centigrade.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

SPRING SURVEY SCHOOL AT OLDS COLLEGE

The spring survey school at Olds College is being held from April 28 to May 16.

The course, which is limited to 18 students, covers the following topics: the land subdivision system; fundamental concepts of surveying; measuring distance; errors in survey work and calculating errors; the use, adjustment and operation of survey equipment; differential and grid surverys; topographic surveys and map drawing; transit tape surveys; angles; cross sections; slope staking; calculating areas; stadia surveys; and miscellaneous projects.

The total cost for people not attending college is approximately $125. It includes fees, books, accommodation and board.

Application forms and further information can be obtained from the registrar, Olds College, Olds, Alberta.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

COMING AGRICULTURAL EVENTS

Third International Symposia of Livestock Wastes, University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, Illinois.	April 21 - 22
Alberta Charolais Association Annual Meeting, Stettler, Alberta.	April 24 - 26
Canadian Institute of Food Science and Technology, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario.	April 25
Inter-provincial Liaison Committee on Farm & Country Vacations, Jasper Park Lodge, Jasper, Alberta.	Mid-May
Symposium: Oilseed and Plant Protein, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba.	May 20 - 23
Canadian Industrial and Farm Equipment Institute, Bayshore Inn, Vancouver, British Columbia.	June 1 - 4
Canadian Institute of Food Science Technology, National Convention, Halifax, Nova Scotia.	June 1 - 5
Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.	June 5 - 7
Institute of Food Technologists Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois.	June 8 - 12
Alberta Women's Institute, Olds College, Olds, Alberta.	June 9 - 12
Beekeepers Field Day, Beaverlodge, Alberta.	June (Farmers Day)
Alberta Plowing Match, Wanham, Alberta.	June 19 - 21
Alberta Pork Congress, Red Deer Exhibition Grounds, Red Deer, Alberta.	June 19 - 21
National Convention; Agricultural Institute of Canada, Brandon University, Brandon, Manitoba.	June 22 - 26

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Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Progressive Farming Days, Olds, Alberta.	June 23 - 26
Canadian Feed Manufacturers Association National Convention, Vancouver, British Columbia	June 29 - July 2
Royal Agricultural Show 1975, National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, England.	June 30 - July 3
Canadian Public Relations Society National Conference, Chateau Laurier Hotel, Ottawa, Ontario.	July 1 - 5
12th World Charolais Federation Meeting & World Show & Sale, Calgary, Alberta.	July 1 - 6
Calgary Stampede, Stampede Grounds, Calgary, Alberta.	July 3 - 12
Canadian Seed Grower's Annual Meeting, Hotel Sheraton, Montreal, Quebec.	July 7 - 12
Klondike Days, Exhibition Grounds, Edmonton, Alberta.	July 16 - 26
International Association of Milk Control Agencies, Quebec City, Quebec.	July 21 - 26
Vegreville Exhibition, Exhibition Grounds, Vegreville.	July 28, 29, 30
Canada Agricultural Manpower Committee, Quebec City, Quebec.	August
Alberta Livestock Co-operative Limited, Edmonton Plaza, Edmonton, Alberta.	August 1 - 2
International Association of Milk Food and Environmental Sanitarians - 62nd Annual Meeting, Royal York Hotel, Toronto, Ontario.	August 10 - 13
Pacific National Exhibition, Exhibition Park, Vancouver, British Columbia.	August 16 - September 1
Canadian Botanical Association and Canadian Phytopathogical Society (combined), Annual Meetings, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.	August 18 - 21
Provincial Horticultural Show, Calgary, Alberta.	August 24 - 25

(continued)

Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

68th Agriculture and Food Industry Exhibition & Fair, Budapest, Hungary.	August 29 - September 14
Fifth International Agriculture Congress, Warwickshire, England.	Sept. 22 - 25
Feed Industry Conference, Edmonton, Alberta.	Sept. 25 & 26
38th Canadian Hatching Federation and Convention, Calgary Inn, Calgary, Alberta.	Sept. 30 - Oct. 1 & 2
Women of Unifarm Annual Convention, Summit Hotel, Calgary, Alberta.	November 5 - 6
Alberta Beekeepers Association Annual Convention, Calgary, Alberta.	November 5 - 7
Farmfair 1975, Edmonton Exhibition Grounds, Edmonton, Alberta.	November 6 - 15
Alberta Simmental Association Annual Meeting, Edmonton, Alberta.	November 7
Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, The Coliseum, Exhibition Park, Toronto, Ontario.	November 14 - 22
Canadian Honey Council Annual Convention, Quebec.	November
Saskatoon Winter Fair, Saskachimo Exposition Ltd., Administration Building, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.	November 17 - 20
Canadian Western Agribition Agribition Building, Exhibition Grounds, Regina, Saskatchewan.	November 22 - 28
Cattlemens Short Course, Banff, Alberta.	December 1 - 5
Unifarm Annual Convention, Edmonton, Alberta.	December 8 - 12
Alberta Irrigation Projects Association, Annual Meeting, Lethbridge, Alberta.	December 10

(continued)

Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Pork Seminar, Banff Centre, Banff, Alberta	January 20 - 23/76
Alberta Dairymen's Association Macdonald Hotel, Edmonton, Alberta	February 2 - 4/76
Agricultural Policy Issues Conference, Banff Centre, Banff, Alberta	February 23 - 27/76
Canadian Council on 4-H Clubs, Charlottetown, P.E.I.	Early June/76
Annual Meeting - Federated Women's Institute of Canada, University of P.E.I.	June 20 - 26/76

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AGRI NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAY 22 1975
CANADIANA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

FARMERS' MARKET OUTLOOK VERY PROMISING



Dr. Hugh M. Horner pictured with Alberta farmers' market girls, some of whom you may find at farmers' markets this summer. Now Minister of Transportation, Dr. Horner initiated the farmers' markets program, which is expected to include at least 20 markets this year, while he was Minister of Agriculture.

The outlook for farmers' markets in Alberta in 1975 is "extremely promising", according to David Rous, commodity officer and farmers' markets representative with Alberta Agriculture.

(continued)

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Farmers' Market Outlook Very Promising (cont'd)

Although the farmers' markets program was announced nearly a year and a half ago, the department is still receiving inquiries from individuals and groups who are considering establishing farmers' markets. Over 80 such inquiries have been received to date, many coming from chambers of commerce, auction markets and agricultural societies.

Under Alberta Agriculture's farmers' markets program, grants are given to market sponsors to help them obtain suitable buildings or other facilities and to promote the markets.

Between 20 and 25 markets are expected to be in operation this spring and summer, a substantial increase over the 16 that were open last year. This figure will make Alberta Canada's third-ranking province in numbers of farmers' markets.

Also planned for 1975 is a province-wide contest to name the girl appearing on the farmers' market symbol. Entry forms will be available at markets this summer. In addition, a publication describing and showing the locations of farmers' markets in Alberta will be distributed through Travel Alberta booths.

(continued)

Farmers' Market Outlook Very Promising (cont'd)

If last year's response was any indication, consumers will again greet farmers' markets with enthusiasm. Many shoppers view farmers' markets as an opportunity to purchase farm-fresh products at savings. Last year stallholders at many markets, both in small towns and cities, were rapidly and repeatedly sold out of produce, indicating a high degree of consumer acceptance.

Mr. Rous says "The challenge facing farmers' markets in 1975 will be to encourage more vegetable growers to operate stalls to meet anticipated high demands." He hopes that the continuation of good vegetable prices and Alberta Agriculture's fresh vegetable incentive program, combined with increased sales opportunities through the establishment of more farmers' markets, will prompt more growers to operate stalls.

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840

April 21, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

EGG MARKETING AGREEMENT DISCUSSED

A formal agreement on egg marketing was discussed recently by Alberta's new minister of agriculture, the Hon. Marvin Moore, at a meeting in Ottawa of provincial agricultural ministers and the federal minister of agriculture, the Hon. Eugene Whelan.

Under such an agreement the provinces would try to reduce the number of laying birds or the quantity of eggs marketed and to arrive at a system of pricing eggs so that producers across Canada would not have to go out of business.

The federal minister of agriculture and the Canadian Egg Marketing Agency (CEMA) are concerned that the low prices central Canadian egg producers are receiving for their eggs will result in their going out of business. These low prices have resulted from egg production far exceeding the current demand.

Mr. Moore said he is having discussions with the Alberta Egg Marketing Board and is hopeful that the matter can be resolved.

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AGDEX: 440/22

April 21, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BABY PIG MORTALITY

What is the percentage of baby pigs that are never weaned? What causes these losses? How can they be reduced?

Dr. F. X. Aherne of the University of Alberta's Department of Animal Science reports that most survey data in both Canada and the United States show that an average of 20 to 25 per cent of all pigs farrowed die before they are weaned. "This and other surverys", he says, "indicate that in spite of increased knowledge and the use of such management aids as farrowing crates and controlled environment, we have made little progress in reducing baby pig losses since the 1960's".

Most surveys show that the main causes of baby pig mortality are stillbirths, weakness and starvation, overlaying by the sow and disease.

Stillbirths

"Stillbirths account for approximately five to seven per cent of all piglets born, or about one pig in every second litter", says Dr. Aherne. However, some of these apparently stillborn pigs are actually born alive but die before the litter is checked. For example, a pig is sometimes born in the afterbirth or with fetal membranes covering its snout. In other cases a pig which appears to be stillborn can be revived if it is massaged briskly and immersed in cold water. In either case the piglet could have been saved if the farrowing had been supervised.

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RELEASED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH ALBERTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

BABY PIG MORTALITY (cont'd)

Weakness and Starvation

Most survey data shows that 50 to 70 per cent of all pre-weaning losses occur within the first three days of farrowing, with the largest number of losses occuring during the first 24 hours of life.

"Data on the relationship between birthweight and survival clearly show", Dr. Aherne says, "that a low birthweight is a very important contributory factor in baby pig mortality. Piglets weighing less than two pounds at birth have only a poor chance of survival."

Although complete supervision of farrowing is not justified under most circumstances, the practice of checking sows and piglets at frequent intervals during farrowing and during the following 24 hours would, undoubtedly, prove very beneficial. Research studies have shown that making sure that weak pigs are warm and helping them to suckle or giving them a feed of the sow's colostrum (first milk) by bottle considerably reduces mortality. In one study involving 1,200 live-born pigs, the baby pig mortality rate was reduced to only three per cent.

The colostrum produced by the sow after farrowing contains important nutrients and antibodies which provide the young pigs with protection against disease until they can synthesize their own antibodies at three or four weeks of age. A new-born pig is able to absorb these antibodies for only 24 to 36 hours after its birth.

(continued)

BABY PIG MORTALITY (cont'd)

"With adequate heat and regular nutrition there is no apparent reason why low birthweight pigs should not survive and perform adequately", says Dr. Aherne, "but there is another influencing factor. A low birthweight pig has a much better chance of survival in a litter in which the piglets in the litter are of a similar size to itself.

Also, the bigger the litter, the greater the competition for the sow's milk and the greater the mortality. However, although the percentage of mortality is higher in the larger litters, more pigs are usually weaned from a big litter which emphasizes the importance of continuing to select for a large litter size even though this trait is not highly heritable".

Overlaying

Most surveys show that crushing and trampling is responsible for from 20 to 30 per cent of baby pig losses, and that almost half these losses are caused by awkwardness and restlessness on the part of the sow. "The best way to cut down these losses", says Dr. Aherne, "is to select docile sows, cull awkward and restless sows and when necessary, improve the management system and the design of the farrowing crate".

Disease

Most surveys also show that primary infection is responsible for only 10 to 15 per cent of baby pig mortality, with scours and digestive troubles the most frequent problems.

(continued)

BABY PIG MORTALITY (cont'd)

However, since there are occasions when disease causes catastrophic losses in individual litters and even in groups of litters, good sanitation and the provision of a dry, clean environment is extremely important.

Dr. Aherne believes that it is certainly within the scope of of many hog producers to save at least one extra pig per litter or two extra pigs per sow per year, but says that whether or not the extra care required is economically feasible will depend upon individual circumstances.

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865

April 21, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

OUTLOOK FOR CREEPING RED FESCUE

"A healthy house building industry in North America will be required to maintain, and hopefully, to increase the demand for Canadian creeping red fescue seed", says Marcel Maisonneuve, marketing economist with Alberta Agriculture.

The demand for red fescue is related to the number of lawns required for new houses and the accompanying development of parks, golf courses, roads etc. as well as to the availability of acceptable substitute grasses. These are mainly chewings fescue and Kentucky bluegrass.

Mr. Maisonneuve reports that the predicted fescue demand for the remainder of this year is not encouraging with the number of new housing starts estimated to be only about 210,000 in Canada and 1.1 million in the United States. In Canada, this year's housing starts are estimated to be down five per cent from 1974 and 20 per cent from 1973. In the U. S. there is estimated to be an 11 per cent decline from 1974 and a 47 per cent decline from 1973.

Canada's creeping red fescue carryover, plus an estimated 1975 crop of 20 million pounds, could mean total supplies at the end of this year of around 36 million pounds.

(continued)

RELEASED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH ALBERTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Outlook for Creeping Red Fescue (cont'd)

"In the United States, the large supply of Kentucky bluegrass, which will be even larger when this year's crop has been harvested, means that 1976 fescue seed prices are unlikely to improve during the 1975-76 crop year without a boom in next year's housing starts", Mr. Maisonneuve says.

He reports that export volumes are down, and that export prices will tend to decline to the end of the present crop year because of the reduction in the U. S. housing starts, that country's surplus of bluegrass and the competition from Danish fescue seed. According to Mr. Maisonneuve, Denmark's record crop of 19.8 million pounds last year - five million more than the 1973 crop - is creating concern among Canadian exporters.

Other factors affecting Canada's fescue trade position with Europe include the United Kingdom's entry into the Europe Economic Community (EEC). It means that by 1976 Canada must greatly increase her production of certified seed. In 1974 Canada produced only about one million pounds of certified seed from approximately 5,000 acres, which is barely five per cent of her total seed production. Alberta produces more than 65 per cent of Canada's creeping red fescue seed. At least half of Canada's total production last year consisted of foreign varieties designated for export, leaving only 500,000 pounds of certified Canadian varieties.

(continued)

Outlook for Creeping Red Fescue (cont'd)

"The lack of certified Boreal seed," Mr. Maisonneuve says, "has already cut Canadian exports to France, and it will be a disaster if we now lose the United Kingdom market through a lack of certified seed supplies". Although 10,000 acres of pedigreed fescue seed will be in production in Canada this year, it is not going to be enough to meet the European market requirements.

The import duty of six per cent and the EEC's production subsidies (11.13¢) are also affecting Canada's European trade. In addition, there is the strict ergot contamination restrictions imposed by Japan and the problem of wild oat and couchgrass contamination of Canadian fescue seed.

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CORRECTION: "Forage Conservation" (April 7 issue of "Agri-News"). The eighth paragraph should read "If we intend to replace grain by hay in a maintenance ration, we must replace 1 pound of grain by 1.7 to 2 pounds of hay, depending upon the quality of forage." Not by 4 to 6 pounds as stated in the article.

AGDEX: 121/22

April 21, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

ALFALFA BLENDS

Do alfalfa blends really increase forage production?

An alfalfa blend is a mixture of alfalfa seed from two or more varieties in a proportion that is designed to take advantage of the desirable characteristics of each variety. For example, in a two-variety blend, one variety might be very resistant to winter killing, while the other might have the ability to recover quickly after it has been cut. The expectation from such a blend would be for a much higher yield per acre than from the winter hardy variety alone. Winter hardy plants produce less forage than non-winter hardy plants because they store more food in their root systems to enable them to survive the winter.

Alberta Agriculture's forage crops specialist, Larry Gareau, reports that some alfalfa blends have produced 25 per cent more forage during their first year of production than the conventional varieties. However, production has dropped to below average in subsequent years because of winter killing.

Mr. Gareau says alfalfa blends have been particularly disappointing in northern areas. Many farmers have found that the high yielding varieties in the blend disappear after their first year of production, leaving a very thin stand.

(continued)

Alfalfa Blends (cont'd)

Although farmers in areas where there is a dehydrating plant would very much like to be able to produce two or three crops in a season, it seems that blends are too unpredictable to be recommended. Generally a farmer does not know what varieties are in the blend so he takes a chance on its adaptation to his soil and climatic conditions. Since the blend must be seeded at a heavier rate than normal to ensure that the different varieties become properly established, such a risk can be an expensive proposition.

"It is difficult to recommend blends", Mr. Gareau says, "until seed companies are prepared to disclose the varieties and proportions of each variety that are in the blend".

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April 21, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

FORAGE SEED COMMISSION IN PEACE RIVER AREA

The Peace River area Forage Seed Marketing Committee have decided to work towards establishing a forage seed commission to promote Alberta forage seed.

Members of the committee agreed at a recent meeting that a commission appeared to be a 'logical first step to something better' even though it will not meet all the objectives that have been identified. The members pointed out that a commission need not prevent the committee, or any other producer groups, continuing their efforts to establish a more effective forage seed marketing agency.

The committee intends to meet again soon to examine the procedure that must be followed to establish a commission. Clark Ferries, chairman of the Alberta Agricultural Marketing Council, will help them to develop a draft proposal.

The Peace River area Forage Seed Committee is made up of forage seed producers who were elected at recent meetings held throughout the region. They are Irvin Macklin of Grande Prairie, chairman, Jake Drozda of Valleyview; John Jones of Falher; Mike Strebchyk of High Prairie; Allan Whiting of Peace River; Henry Dechant of Fairview; Stan Sather of Wanham; Bill Uhyrn of Rycroft; and Harry Reinders of Manning.

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RELEASED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH ALBERTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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April 21, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

SUMMER FARM EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED

Employment of 8,000 Alberta youth is the objective of this year's provincial Summer Farm Employment Program.

Established in 1973, the program is designed to provide farmers with badly needed help and to enable young residents of the province to earn money for their education by providing them with employment during May, June, July and August. It will also give those who have not had any previous farm experience a chance to see whether they would like to take further training in agriculture.

Applicants must be over 16 years of age. If they are under 18 they must have written parental consent to take a job under the program. They must also have lived in Alberta for the past six months and be legally entitled to work in Canada. Before commencing work, they will be required to attend a farm safety orientation course provided by Alberta Agriculture.

Any Alberta farmer is eligible to apply for an employee, providing he is prepared to hire the employee for not less than two weeks. Under the present program he is entitled to hire a member of his immediate family if he so wishes.

(continued)

Summer Farm Employment Program Applications Accepted (cont'd)

Wages are negotiated between the farmer and the employee. The government will pay half the agreed monthly salary or $200 a month, which ever is the lesser. The government will also pay the employers contributions to the Unemployment Insurance Commission and to the Canada Pension Plan.

There is no guarantee that an application has been accepted until the applicant has been notified by the manager of his local Canada farm labor pool office. All applications will be processed on a 'first come - first serve' basis.

Preregistration forms should be submitted immediately. They can be obtained from district agriculturists, regional representatives of the Department of Recreation, Parks and Wildlife, operational placement offices and local Canada farm labor pool offices.

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April 21, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

FARM IMPLEMENT ACT WARRANTIES

The main purpose of the Alberta Farm Implement Act is to provide certain warranties in the sales of all farm implements.

Ed Weins, administrator of the Farm Implement Act, points out that the warranties apply regardless of any clauses which may appear in the fine print of a contract.

Every farm implement is guaranteed by the seller to be:

* Made of good materials.
* Properly constructed from the point of view of design and workmanship.
* In good working order.
* Capable of satisfactorily performing the work for which it is intended, subject to reasonable conditions, proper use and proper maintenance.
* Designed and constructed in every way to ensure reasonable durability when properly used and looked after.

A farmer who wishes to claim that the implement is not capable of performing the work for which it was intended must give notice, by registered letter, of the machine's failure to perform satisfactorily to the vendor, the dealer and the provincial minister of agriculture, within 10 days of first using the implement.

(continued)

Farm Implement Act Warranties (cont'd)

The dealer or vendor has seven days of reasonable operating conditions to make the machine work properly. If he fails to do so within this period, he must supply a substitute machine within 48 hours for the purchaser to use until his machine is made to perform satisfactorily. If the machine still does not work, the dealer or vendor must either replace the implement with one that is acceptable to the purchaser or he must terminate the sale agreement.

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AGDEX: 113/13

April 21, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

OATS AS AN 'INSURANCE' CROP

Are you growing oats this spring as a potential forage crop?

Larry Gareau, Alberta Agriculture's forage crops specialist, recommends that livestock producers seriously consider growing oats as an 'insurance' crop in case they get a poor hay crop this summer, and to help alleviate an anticipated forage shortage next fall.

According to the "Weekly Letter" from the federal research station at Swift Current, an oat crop that is grown on summer fallow land should yield about 60 bales of forage to the acre if it is cut in the milk state. The scientists say that at this stage of deveopment tests have shown that the oat crop contains nine per cent protein and 50 per cent digestible nutrients. These values compare very favorably with 10 per cent protein and 52 per cent digestible nutrients in grass hay that is cut in the bloom stage.

Probably the main advantage of growing oats for forage is that if the 'insurance' is not needed, you can allow the crop to mature and still have the straw for roughage.

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RELEASED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH ALBERTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

VEGETABLE GARDENING IS 'IN' AGAIN

Probably not since the 'Victory Gardens' of the early 1940's have so many people been interested in having their own vegetable garden, whether it be a big farm garden, a vegetable patch on an urban lot, a corner of a patio or an apartment balcony.

This issue of the "Prairie Garden", Western Canada's only gardening annual, contains an article by Bill Andrew, head of Horticulture at the University of Alberta, which outlines the steps you should take when planning your vegetable garden, how you should choose your crops and the general layout of a successful garden. The article also gives practical hints on how to keep your cauliflower heads hard and white, how to prevent cabbage heads from spliting and how to get the shape of carrots you want. Mr. Andrew recommends growing Swiss chard instead of spinach as a greens crop. He says it is much better than spinach for summer growth. He also points out leaf lettuce will be ready to use sooner than crisp head lettuce, and that leaf lettuce is more nutritious. He recommends harvesting sweet corn in the evening or early morning, and cooling it immediately after you have harvested it to retain its sweetness.

(continued)

Vegetable Gardening Is 'In' Again (cont'd)

Published by the Winnipeg Horticultural Society, the "Prairie Garden" contains many other articles, by both professional and amateur gardeners specializing in a particular phase of horticulture, that are interesting and informative to anyone who likes gardening. Topics range from "Bush Tomato Growing" to "Junior Gardening" and "Nature Gardening". The book is illustrated by many colored and black and white pictures, and this year's issue has a special colored section devoted exclusively to the many bulb varieties that can be grown in prairie gardens.

"The Prairie Garden" costs $2 a copy and can be obtained from The Prairie Garden, P. O. Box 517, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C 2J3.

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April 21, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

HEAD OF PLANT INDUSTRY LABORATORY APPOINTED

J. B. Gurba, head of Alberta Agriculture's Crop Protection and Pest Contol Branch, has announced the appointment of Dr. Bart Bolwyn to the position of head of the Plant Industry Laboratory in Edmonton. He was formerly head of Laboratory services at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center at Brooks.

In his new position, Dr. Bolwyn will direct the operations of the laboratory which handles pest specimens submitted by the general public through agricultural offices, city parks and other public agencies across the province. It provides a scientific and diagnostic service for weed, insect and animal pest problems, as well as for plant disease and related crop production problems.

Dr. Bolwyn graduated from the University of British Columbia in 1961 with a B.Sc. He received his M. Sc. in plant pathology from the University of Idaho in 1964, and his Ph.D. in plant pathology from Oregon State University in 1967.

Before joining Alberta Agriculture in 1973, Dr. Bolwyn was the disease and insect specialist for the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture at Ridgetown College of Agricultural Technology. Prior to that he was provincial pathologist with the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture.

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AGRI NEWS

HAROLD WEBBER OF CO-OPERATIVE ACTIVITIES RETIRES

After 22 years as head of Alberta Agriculture's Co-operative Activities and Credit Union Branch, Harold Webber, affectionately known to his many friends as 'Mr. Co-operator', has retired. However, he is being retained by the minister as a consultant on co-operative development.



Harold Webber, head of Alberta Agriculture's Co-operative Activities and Credit Union Branch retires.

Born on a homestead south of Vermilion in what later became known as the Tolland district, Harold Webber moved with his family to Toronto when he was two years old. The family came back to the Tolland district in 1924. He then continued his education in a one-room rural school. After completing high school, he attended the Vermilion School of Agriculture (as it was then called), graduating in 1933. The following year he graduated from the Calgary Normal School.

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RELEASED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH ALBERTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Harold Webber of Co-operative Activities Retires (cont'd)

In 1937 he married Lucy Heinlein and subsequently they had two sons and a daughter. He continued teaching until he joined the RCAF in 1941. At the end of the war he became principal of the Marwayne High School. In 1950 he graduated from the University of Alberta with a B. Sc. in agriculture.

Mr. Webber then joined the Alberta Department of Industries and Labor as co-operative assistant in the Co-operative Activities and Credit Union Branch. Two years later he was promoted to deputy supervisor of the branch and became branch head the following year.

During the last 25 years Mr. Webber has seen the branch grow from a modest staff of 10 to its present complement of 75. He has also seen co-operatives and credit unions develop to the important place they now occupy in today's society.

The development of rural electrification throughout Alberta has been one of the main highlights of Mr. Webber's career. In 1950 very few of the rural homes in the province had electricity, but this situation has changed rapidly since the Rural Electrification Revolving Fund was introduced in 1953. Now electrical power is available in all recognized farming areas of Alberta. Mr. Webber was actively involved in both the design of the format that was followed and in the administration of the necessary legislation.

(continued)

Harold Webber of Co-operative Activities Retires (cont'd)

Building good relations between the government and organized credit unions was another of Mr. Webber's goals which he achieved during his career. In 1953 when these relations were at a very low ebb, he set out to cultivate the necessary liaison between the two. So successful was he in this endeavour that today there is no hesitation on the part of co-operatives or credit unions to give information to the Co-operatives Activities and Credit Union Branch or to ask for advice.

Mr. Webber's main extra-curricular activity for many years has been the Royal Canadian Air Cadets. He has held a number of posts in the various squadrons of No. 9 Wing of the RCAF in Edmonton, and was wing commanding officer from 1961 to 1964. Although he retired from the RCAF Reserve in 1964, he has remained an active member of the Alberta Provincial Committee of the Air Cadet League of Canada.

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April 28, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

SPRINKLER IRRIGATION EQUIPMENT OUTLOOK

"What a difference a year makes is the best way to describe the irrigation equipment outlook for 1975", says Len Ring, irrigation systems engineer with Alberta Agriculture.

Almost every type of sprinkler equipment is in good supply this year with prices relatively stable compared with those of last year. Some center pivot machines, for example, are being delivered one week after they are ordered.

The reasons for the improved situation are many, according to Mr. Ring. One is the decline in building and automobile construction which has released a large volume of aluminum and steel that would normally be used for siding, window frames etc. Another is that many irrigation manufacturers placed orders with different suppliers when raw materials were scarce. These orders are now being filled from all sources, creating a surplus of equipment.

The present state of the American economy, and the limited water supplies in some areas of that country, is still another reason. It has resulted in the demand for irrigation equipment being smaller than had been expected, with the result that more equipment is being released to the Canadian market. Mr. Ring reports that many U. S. dealers, mostly from Montana, Idaho and Colorado, are now selling their equipment in Alberta and advises farmers here to make sure they invest their money wisely.

(continued)

RELEASED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH ALBERTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Sprinkler Irrigation Equipment Outlook (cont'd)

Although many people have saved money by purchasing directly from an American dealer, the following points should be checked.

* What warranty, if any, is provided? The Alberta Farm Implement Act states that all equipment sold by dealers in this province must be guaranteed for one year from the date of its first use.
* Can any service be expected?
* Will the system be installed by the dealer?
* Are parts for all components readily available?

With these facts, a prospective purchaser is in a position to compare the lower initial cost which is sometimes available from a source outside Canada with the services, etc. he feels he can expect from his local dealer.

Mr. Ring also reports that irrigation pipe that is suitable for direct earth burial is more readily available this year than it was last year, and that the price for some types of pipe like polyvinyl-chloride (PVC) and steel is lower. He says a coated aluminum pipe is also available which is suitable for direct burial.

In summary he advises farmers to check with a number of irrigation suppliers before purchasing new equipment and to compare prices, availability of parts, product quality and services. Then choose a dealer on the basis of this information.

(continued)

Sprinkler Irrigation Equipment Outlook (cont'd)

Anybody who would like information on irrigation equipment or design recommendations should contact his nearest Irrigation Division office. These offices are located in Lethbridge, Taber, Bow Island, Medicine Hat, Vauxhall, Brooks, Strathmore and Calgary.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

INTENDED ACREAGE OF PRINCIPAL FIELD CROPS

According to Statistic Canada's March report on intentions to plant, Alberta farmers plan to increase their wheat acreage this year by nine per cent, compared with last year's acreage. The average increase in intentions to plant wheat for the three prairie provinces is seven per cent.

The following table shows the seeded acreage for 1973 and 1974 and the intended acreages for 1975 of all principal crops grown in the province as well as the intended summerfallow acreage.

	1973	1974	Intended 1975	1975 as % 1974
	- thousand acres -			per cent
ALBERTA				
All wheat	4,900	4,500	4,900	109
Durum Wheat	250	400	500	125
Oats*	2,500	2,300	2,400	104
Barley*	5,300	5,300	5,200	98
All Rye	240	350	355	101
Flaxseed	200	200	150	75
Mixed Grains	400	370	360	97
Potatoes	23	23	23	100
Rapeseed	1,300	1,200	1,600	133
Summerfallow	6,700	7,000	6,700	96

* includes oats and barley intended for forage as well as grain.

(continued)

Intended Acreage of Principal Field Crops (cont'd)

Alberta Agriculture's statistician, Chuck Sterling, points out that the increase in this year's intended rapeseed acreage probably reflects the fact that it is now two years since there has been a serious outbreak of Bertha armyworms and reflects the market that has existed for this crop over the last two years.

Whether or not the above intentions to plant are actually carried out will depend upon such things as seed availability, the weather and changes in the market outlook between now and seeding time.

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April 28, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

CHECKING FOR GRASSHOPPER INFESTATIONS

"We can expect a grasshopper problem this season almost anywhere in central and southern Alberta", says Michael Dolinski, entomologist and pest control specialist with Alberta Agriculture. He bases this opinion on the grasshopper survey carried out last fall by Agriculture Canada's research station at Lethbridge and provincial agricultural fieldmen.

Finding and Assessing the Degree of Infestation

"The secret of successful grasshopper control", Mr. Dolinski says, "is to spray the insects while they are still small and concentrated in ditches, headlands etc. Newly hatched grasshoppers are most likely to be found in areas where grasshopper populations were heavy last fall because that is where the eggs were laid". He recommends inspecting the egg beds in early May and checking those that warm up first (usually on south facing slopes) by getting down on your hands and knees and looking for the the nymphs.

The following table, compiled by Agriculture Canada, can be used as a guide when deciding whether or not spraying is necessary.

(continued)

RELEASED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH ALBERTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Checking for Grasshopper Infestations (cont'd)

Number of Young and Adult Grasshoppers per Square Yard

Rating	Field	Roadside	
Normal	0-3	0-6	- Spraying usually not necessary.
Light	4-6	7-12	- Spraying usually not necessary.
Moderate	7-12	13-24	- Spraying may be required to protect crops.
Severe	13-24	25-48	- Spraying should be carried out to protect crops.
Very Severe	over 25	over 49	- Spraying should be carried out to protect crops.

If the spring is cool and wet, egg beds may have to be sprayed several times because hatching will continue over a long period of time. "If the grasshoppers have already started to invade the edges of adjacent fields by the time they are discovered, spray both the edges of the fields and the egg beds", Mr. Dolinski says. "Just spraying the edges of the fields will not solve the problem. Under some circumstances it may be necessary to spray the whole field".

(continued)

Checking for Grasshopper Infestations (cont'd)

The following insecticides are recommended for grasshopper control.

Insecticide	Rate (active ingredient)	Crop	Restrictions
Carbofuran (Furadan)	2 oz.	Alfalfa Barley Flax Grasses Rape Sweet Clover Wheat Non-Crop Areas	Cereals - Do not apply within 21 days of harvest or more than twice per season. Oilseeds- Do not apply within 60 days of harvest and not more than once to the same crop. Forage & Grasses - Do not apply to pasture within 1 day of grazing, to sweet clover within 28 days or to alfalfa within 21 days of harvest or grazing. Do not apply to the same crop more than twice per season.
Dimethoate	4-6 oz.	Cereals Forage & Grasses Rape	Cereals - For control of grasshoppers over half an inch long or under poor spray conditions up to 6 oz. per acre can be applied. Do not apply within 21 days of harvest. Although dimethoate is registered for use at a rate of up to 7 oz. per acre, it must not be applied at this rate within 28 days of harvest. Forage & Grasses - Do not graze dairy cattle on forage within 2 days of application when using the lower rate or within 7 days when using the higher rate. Rape - Do not apply within 30 days of harvest.

Azinphos-methyl (Guthion), carbaryl (Sevin), diazinon & malathion are also registered for grasshopper control.

(continued)

Checking for Grasshopper Infestations (cont'd)

At the present time dimethoate is the only insecticide being supplied by Alberta Agriculture through municipal and county offices. The other insecticides are available from local agricultural chemical dealers.

Cautions

If spraying is essential on a bee pasture, use only malathion and avoid spraying when the forage is in bloom. At this time the bees will be very active in the crop. Also, spray only when the bees are absent, (early morning or late evening) and notify the beekeeper before you start spraying.

Read directions on the container label for special warnings and cautions as well as for mixing directions. Follow these directions to avoid contaminating food or feed crops and to avoid residue problems in milk and meat products. Since insecticides are poisonous to people, livestock, fish and wildlife, be very careful not to contaminate drinking water, dugout water and fish habitats, especially when filling and cleaning sprayer tanks.

Grasshopper Damage

Grasshopper damage can be divided into three phases. Grasshoppers which hatch early may completely destroy newly-germinated seedlings. Once the seedlings have been chewed down to the ground they will not recover.

(continued)

Checking for Grasshopper Infestations (cont'd)

. Grasshoppers which continue to emerge during the growing season can gradually defoliate the crop, reducing its yield and seed grade.
. Grasshoppers that are present towards the end of the growing season can damage the seed heads so that they either fall to the ground, or are 'unharvestable'. Whether or not this type of damage occurs seems to depend upon the amount of green that remains in the stems after the leaves have been stripped.

Grasshopper Control Policy

In Alberta the grasshopper control program is administered jointly by Alberta Agriculture and the municipalities. Under it the department purchases dimethoate and stocks it at strategic points throughout the province so that it can be quickly transported to an outbreak area. Alberta Agriculture bears the shipping costs. The municipalities are responsible for storing and distributing the chemical to farmers at prices established under the Grasshopper Control Policy for the current year.

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April 28, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

A NEW TECHNIQUE FOR MEASURING FERTILIZER RETURNS

By putting together the work done by universities, research stations, fertilizer companies and Alberta Agriculture over the past few years, scientists are now able to predict, under average conditions, how much an extra 10 pounds of nitrogen will produce in extra yields.

Ross Gould, Alberta Agriculture's district agriculturist at Stettler, reminds farmers that this year, for the first time, the soil test reports from the Soil and Feed Testing Laboratory in Edmonton include the new information on potential crop responses to extra nitrogen. "The report", he says, "contains the traditional fertilizer recommendations for nitrogen and phosphorus plus a table which sets out the extra yield that can be expected for each additional application of 10 pounds of fertilizer".

To decide what level of fertilizer will produce a desirable profit, a farmer must estimate the value of crops produced by each additional 10 pounds of fertilizer, and then compare these values with the cost of extra fertilizer. "Probably few farmers will go beyond the point where they get $2 back for each additional dollar spent on fertilizer because after this point they could likely get higher returns on other 'inputs' such as chemicals for weed control", Mr. Gould says.

Fertilizer prices, like the prices of many other farm 'inputs', have increased, but farmers should not consider fertilizer prices alone.

(continued)

RELEASED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH ALBERTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

A New Technique For Measuring Fertilizer Returns (cont'd)

They should consider them in relation to grain prices. By using the information on the new soil test reports and by substituting various grain and fertilizer prices, it is now possible to get some indication of the effect of these changes on net returns from fertilizers and of the application rate required for a given return (i.e. $2 return for an additional $1 of fertilizer).

Doug Penny, Alberta Agriculture's soil fertility specialist, says soil tests are an excellent guide for determining the rate of fertilizer to apply, for estimating net returns from fertilizers and for obtaining the maximum returns from a fertilizer investment.

Results of soil samples taken in the spring can still be received in time for use on this year's crop, barring delays in the mail service. Soil sampling kits and samplers may be obtained from district agriculturists' offices and from fertilizer dealers. District agriculturists are prepared to help farmers interpret their soil test results.

* Two new publications entitled "Conversion of Fertilizer Prices Into Nutrient Costs" and "How to Get the Most From Your Soil Test Results" are now available from district agriculturists and the publications office, Alberta Agriculture, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton.

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April 28, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

ALFALFA PROCESSING INDUSTRY REPORT

Alberta's processed alfalfa products have two main outlets on the domestic market. They are commercial feed mills and direct purchases by livestock producers from the processing plants.

This fact was shown in a study carried out last year by Alberta Agriculture to document the production and marketing potentials of dehydrated alfalfa and to recommend changes that may be necessary for these potentials to be fully developed.

The study shows that feedlot operators use the highest volume of processed alfalfa products, followed closely by dairymen. Next come producers of hogs, sheep and horses.

"Alfalfa cubes", says the study report, "are now being more readily accepted by dairymen and cow/calf operators as an alternative to baled hay because of the ease with which they can be handled, their adaptation to mechanized feeding and the elimination of waste". It appears that alfalfa cubes and other dehydrated forages will present more of a challenge to conventional baled hay as baler twine costs accompany the rise in labor costs.

Alfalfa cubes are composed of partially dehydrated, chopped alfalfa and are 1 1/4" x 1/2" x 2" in size. Sometimes the compressed alfalfa is combined with straw, grain or other concentrates.

(continued)

Alfalfa Processing Industry Report (cont'd)

Because the cubes are so easy to handle and do not cause digestive problems, as sometimes happens with alfalfa pellets, it is likely the farmer market will continue to increase.

Those who compiled the report feel that present high grain prices are resulting in a trend towards greater use of hay, silage, straw and forages such as processed alfalfa. European countries have been using a high level of forage in their livestock rations and producing leaner carcasses for a long time now. This trend is becoming increasingly evident in both the United States and Canada.

The study report, entitled "Analysis and Implications for the Development of the Alfalfa Processing Industry in Alberta" is available for general distribution. However, since the study is basically an overview of the alfalfa processing industry in Alberta, its interest to farmers will be very limited. Copies can be obtained from the Publications Office, Alberta Agriculture, Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton.

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April 28, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI-NEWS

WEED CONTROL '75 A RESOUNDING SUCCESS

Enthusiasm and bustling activity! That was the atmosphere in the Kinex Building at the Red Deer Exhibition Grounds on Weed Control '75 Day!

More than 2,000 farmers from the surrounding area, and from as far away as the Peace River region in the north and Calgary in the south, came to see and to evaluate Weed Control '75---a follow up to Alberta Agriculture's weed control correspondence course, held in central Alberta earlier this year.

Opened by Jack Cookson, MLA for Lacombe, the display of products and machinery gave the impression of a country fair. There were 50 booths in all, most of which had been rented by chemical companies and implement dealers for a very nominal fee. One of the more unusual displays was a helicopter used for applying agricultural chemicals and exhibited by Alpine Helicopters Ltd. and Agro-copter enterprises.

Two small rooms attached to the main building drew large crowds. They had been imaginatively made into miniature theatres. In one a slide presentation, showing how to choose and operate a sprayer, ran almost continuously. In the other, movies were shown about every half hour on the various aspects of applying agricultural chemicals from the air.

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RELEASED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH ALBERTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Weed Control '75 A Resounding Success (cont'd)

Several of the booths also drew large crowds. One of these was run by Terry Footz of Alberta Agriculture who was demonstrating the different spray coverage obtained from various types of nozzles. He used a unique piece of equipment he had designed himself. The demonstration left no doubt about the efficiency of the different types of nozzles.

The Zapper booth was another that attracted a lot of attention. Here the staff displayed and sold magnetic seed treaters. Designed to be attached directly to a seed drill filler, this small gadget magnetizes the seed before it goes into the ground. According to the federal research station at Lethbridge, their fields tests have shown yield increases from both wheat and barley seed that was treated with a commercial magnetic seed treater before it was planted.

Olds College also had a unique display at Weed Control '75. It consisted of specimens of the five most poisonous weeds in Alberta, all of which had been collected and frozen last summer. After having been thawed out, they looked as if they had just been picked.

Still another novel feature at the fair was a seedling identification competition which was divided into two sections---one for farmers and one for professional weedmen. Grown by the federal research station at Lacombe, the seedlings were displayed in individual containers.

(continued)

Weed Control '75 A Resounding Success (cont'd)

Although there was some initial hesitation on the part of farmers to enter the competition because they felt they were not familiar with many of the weeds at this stage of their growth, there was great excitement when it came to counting up the points of those who had had the courage to enter. The farmer section of the competition was won by Robert Bolinger of Gleichen whose prize was a set of stainless steel sprayer nozzles. The professional section was won by Sid Kuhn, assistant agricultural fieldman for the M. D. of Sturgeon.

A common comment among farmers who attended Weed Control '75 was "It is a real asset to have all the different brands of herbicides and different types of application equipment under one roof. It enables one to easily compare the features of each, something we have never been able to do before".

Organized by Keith Price, Thom Shaw, Terry Footz and Bob Nelson of Alberta Agriculture's Plant Industry Division, Weed Control '75 was so popular that it could have easily run for several days more. However, if this year's attendance and enthusiasm is any indication of the need for this type of an event, there is every chance that an updated version of Weed Control '75 could become an annual event!

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April 28, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

BEES AND CARS - AN EXPLOSIVE SITUATION

Have you ever been cruising down a main highway at 65 to 70 miles an hour when a bee suddenly exploded against your windshield, leaving a sticky mess several inches in diameter? Or have you ever been stung by a bee that was sucked into your car through your open vent window?

Dr. Ulf Soehngen, supervisor of Apiculture with Alberta Agriculture, reports he has recently received a number of complaints from people about the apparent lack of concern in the past by some beekeepers about the possibility of honeybees flying from beeyards that are too close to the road causing accidents.

Locating apiaries on high ground overlooking the road has been suggested as a way of considerably reducing this problem. The bees will then fly over the passing traffic instead of into it, except, perhaps, on a very windy day. Another suggestion has been to place bee colonies behind a screen of bush or dense trees so that the bees have to fly up before crossing the highway, or to make a barrier out of snow fencing etc.

It is important to remember that there is a distinct possibility of an accident arising from low flying bees on a highway. So real is this possibility that some countries are considering legislation to restrict the location of apiaries near roads.

(continued)

RELEASED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH ALBERTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Bees And Cars - An Explosive Situation (cont'd)

From the beekeeper's own point of view, he risks a very high mortality among his bees, especially during the main honey flow, which is the very time when his bees are least expendable.

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April 28, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

FARM LAND APPRAISAL AND ASSESSMENT COURSE

Olds Regional College is offering a farm land appraisal and assessment course from May 12 - 30.

Designed to supplement the University of Alberta's evening course for people engaged in farm land assessing and appraising, the Olds' course will provide practical laboratory and field training. It is divided into three sections.

The soils section covers such topics as soil genesis; morphology and classification; methods of evaluation; soil surveys, their interpretation and use; and aerial photography interpretation.

The pasture land section deals with evaluation, identification of vegetation cover, management influences and their effect upon determining the value of pasture land.

The farm sales analysis section covers resource inventories, tenure classification and farm types; market characteristics in an agricultural area; factors involved in evaluating; and a study of farm sale practices. The effect of the new taxation laws on the value of rural property will also be discussed.

All three sessions will include the use of aerial photographs, practical laboratory sessions and field tours to prepared sites.

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Farm Land Appraisal and Assessment Course (cont'd)

Tuition for the course is $25. Other costs include a $5 application fee, $25 for books and supplies; $2 for accident insurance and $140 for board and room.

Further information may be obtained from Mr. R. Hill, Olds Regional College, Olds.

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April 28, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

"LAND USE AND BEEF PRODUCTION FOR A CHANGING MARKET"

If you are interested in beef production, but were not able to attend the Alberta Cattlemen's short course at the end of last year, you can get a copy of the excellent papers given on the theme "Land Use and Beef Production for a Changing Market" from the University of Alberta.

Among the well known authorities who gave papers were Dr. Gene Futrell, an extension economist from Iowa State University; Dr. J. A. Robertson of Agriculture Canada's research station at Melfort, Saskatchewan; George Jones of Stewart and Son Ltd. in Ontario; and Dr. Michael Price of Australia.

Topics discussed at the short course included "Land Use Planning"; "Public Policy - Land Use"; "Range Nutrition"; "The Potential of Corn as Feed"; and "Cross Breeding Programs".

Copies of these papers can be obtained from: The University of Alberta Bookstore, Students' Union Building, 114 Street and 89 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta. The charge is $5.

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RELEASED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH ALBERTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

April 28, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LEGAL APPOINTMENT

Lorne Ordze, chairman of the board of directors and director of the Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC) has announced the appointment of Ron Ziebart to the position of assistant solicitor for ADC.

Mr. Ziebart will be in charge of the legal aspects of direct farm and guaranteed loans and of revamping some internal legal policies. In this capacity he will advise ADC headquarters and field staff on legal problems and consult with area solicitors.

Mr. Ziebart was born and raised in a farming community in Saskatchewan and has been associated with grain and swine enterprises, which will be a definite asset in his present position.

He graduated from the University of Alberta with a law degree in 1972. Prior to that he obtained a bachelor of education degree from the same university and taught school in Alberta for a number of years. Since graduating from law school, and prior to joining ADC, Mr. Ziebart practised law in Medicine Hat and Red Deer.

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AGRI NEWS

TREE NURSERY PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR APPOINTED

The head of Alberta Agriculture's Horticultural Branch, Peter McCalla, has announced the appointment of John denHeyer to the position of production supervisor at the provincial tree nursery at Oliver.

Mr. denHeyer supervises the propogation of container-grown spruce and pine seedlings and consults with forestry officials on experimental and development work designed to improve container growing techniques. He also assists other professional foresters and agrologists with branch programs including seed quality control. In addition to applied research projects, he is responsible for extension in forestry technology.

Born on a farm which is now part of Edmonton, Mr. denHeyer attended Harry Ainlay Composite High School in Edmonton and the University of Alberta, where he obtained a B. Sc. in forestry.

He spent the summers of 1973 and 1974 at the provincial tree nursery doing senior technical work under the seedling container-growing program.

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